

**Marion Central School District  
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM  
Marion Jr-Sr High School Library**

**A. Opening**

1. Call to Order: Mr. Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

**Board Members Present:** M. Kuelling, R. Marshall, J. Monroe (6:03p), and A. Taber

**Board Members Absent:** J. Reesor

**Administrators Present:** S. Dehn, A. Harasimowicz, K. Kellerhouse (Admin Intern), M. Levi, E. Lloyd, N. Miller, C. Steiner, R. Walker, and D. Wise

**Guests:** Guest Register

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Taber, seconded by Mrs. Kuelling, and unanimously carried by Board members present the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Educational Law, approves the agenda of December 4, 2023, as presented. (FY 23/24 December #1) 3-0-0

**B. Community Comments on Agenda Items - No comments were made.**

**C. Presentation**

Mrs. Miller and Mr. Dehn presented information on the Seal of Civic Readiness. They first shared the states definition of Civic Readiness, "the ability to make a positive difference in the public life of our communities through a combination of civic knowledge, skills, actions, mindsets and experiences" and that those four things encompass the components of the Seal of Civic Readiness; followed by a video giving more explanation. She stated that each school district has to create guidelines based on the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness Handbook. Overall, the students need to earn a total of six points and they explained those, along with examples of how students can earn points. Mr. Dehn gave kudos to Mrs. Miller for doing the research and a lot of work and effort resulting in 14 students working toward attaining this seal this year. He then said that they have the first group of presentations taking place this week and students will get feedback from their presentation as they work toward demonstrating the work they've done toward earning points. Mr. Casper is one of the fourteen who are working toward this seal and Mr. Dehn asked him to explain what he will be presenting. Mr. Dehn then explained Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Herlan are working with middle school students so that they should start high school with one point toward their six needed.

**D. Board of Education Reports & Discussion**

Mr. Marshall first commented on the change of description on the agenda to include discussion, not just report since he feels that better represents what the Board does during this segment of the meeting. He then discussed with the Board the idea, in light of the last meeting being only 7 minutes long, of canceling a meeting if the agenda is short and doesn't have items that need immediate attention. It was agreed that this could happen as long as they had agreement from the superintendent and the school business administrator that there wasn't anything on the agenda that needed approval in a specific timeframe.

**E. Student Representative Report**

Mr. Casper reported to the board that the annual penny fund began the previous Friday and currently they had raised \$12.62. All types of monetary donations are accepted and the competition ends on December 20th. He and Mr. Dehn then reported that he is doing the afternoon announcements from Mr. Stalder's classroom phone which is at a time when students aren't getting ready to leave the building and more students seem to be actually hearing the announcements as noted by the improved number of students that attended the student counsel meeting.

**F. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Lloyd reported that a representative from NYSED visited last week to review our UPK programming. The representative visited our two UPK classrooms and met with Dr. Lloyd and Mrs. Steiner. Dr. Lloyd then gave kudos to Mrs. Steiner and Mrs. Mitchell for collecting the documents required for our quality assurance protocol which were uploaded to the state portal and everything was correct. The only remaining item is a zoom call with our advisor, so this is a huge accomplishment for the district. She next spoke about the discussion around opening up participation of some extra curricular programs to homeschoolers. The administrative team compiled guidelines that contain specific eligibility criteria, such as being in compliance with district policies,



satisfactory academic progress, compliance with homeschool requirements, and residency to name a few. A process was created which includes an application to make sure that all the requirements are met, and an approval process by a committee was also put in place. Homeschool families can register to get Marion Messages and the information on the mini-camps will be included in that. Lastly, and also important to mention is that the mini-camps do have a limit as to the number of students that can participate, and there are times when the limit is met and students need to be turned away, so it is written that a homeschool student cannot take a slot away from a currently enrolled student.

#### G. School Business Administrator Report

Mr. Walker reported on the budget development guidelines which are very similar to previous years with the exception of the wording for federal stimulus money which is coming to an end, so the wording reflects that. He then reported on the financial report stating that there were no significant changes and ask for approval. Lastly, Mr. Walker shared information on the bus replacement plan going forward with respect to the electric vehicle mandate that will be coming between 2027 - 2037. He asked Dave Barmaster, the District Bus Mechanic, to join the meeting and they discussed the reasoning for the next few years of bus replacement going from gas to diesel, the significance for that decision and what needs to take place in the future to be able to meet the electric vehicle mandate from the state which is scheduled to be enforced in 2037.

Motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. Taber, and unanimously carried by Board members present the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Educational Law, approves the Financial Report as presented.

#### H. Administrators' Reports

Mrs. Miller reported on continuing Teacher Clarity workshops at the high schools which will be done mid-January and then elementary will start part 2 of that training; also planning on a literacy and AI training at the elementary. She then shared that we are officially approved to offer the Arts pathway to Marion students and it will be about 3 years before we see any of our students graduate with that pathway; noting that there may be some Juniors who will be able to earn the distinction on their diploma, but this won't be able to replace a regents exam for three years. Mrs. Miller mentioned that the Board of Regents, in November, had a presentation on the Blue Ribbons Commission on graduation and it is now in that boards hands. She then described the four main priorities that they will consider which are multiple pathways leading to one diploma, multiple ways for students to show what they know, understanding of meaningful life readiness credentials, and ensuring that there is a culturally responsive curriculum across PK - 12, but, again, this is in the hands of the Board of Regents.

Mrs. Levi reported that two students have been declassified which means that they no longer need extra supports which is a good thing. She mentioned that they held a staff meeting for the school psychologists, which they were very happy to have, to discuss aligning practices between buildings. Mrs. Levi then reported that we have about five students on a waitlist for outside placements and those students are currently receiving tutoring, she explained why these outplacements are needed and also annual reviews are starting. Lastly, she reported that since the beginning of the school year, 1330 BKC's have been given out at the Jr-Sr High school and 3418 Knight Notes at the Elementary.

Mrs. Steiner reported on the Veteran's Day assembly which was facilitated by Ms. Holloway and student council, and she mentioned that the key note speaker was our board member, Ms. Taber. She then reported on mini-camp happenings and the PTO Candyland themed Bingo night which was a hit. Mrs. Steiner mentioned that in December there are band and chorus concerts to look forward to; the sixth graders are going to GEVA to see a Christmas Carol, there will be a recognition assembly this coming Friday, parent-teacher conferences and Mosaic Dental will be coming to the building to do teeth cleaning which is helpful for families.

Mrs. Harasimowicz reported that she attended the PTO rollerskating party which everyone seemed to have a good time. She also mentioned the kindergarten feast that took place before Thanksgiving break and how the students each expressed what they were thankful for. Mrs. Harasimowicz then reported that they are still focusing on tardiness to school at the Jr-Sr High, and that they have been having conversations with students and working with some families on it and seeing some improvement.

Mr. Dehn reported that the district had 3 middle school students and 4 high school students participate in All-State Choir, congratulations to them; we also had 2 FFA students and the advisor attend the FFA National Convention and they had some pretty incredible experiences there; and the fall sports season came to an end and although there were no sectional titles all teams had successful seasons. He then reported on the student council food drive which was very successful and as a result Mr. Dehn agreed to dress up in the color of the class that brought in the most food which was the eighth grade class, so he dressed in red, even his hair was sprayed red. Next, Mr. Dehn reported that two students signed letters of intent to play soccer in college and extended congratulations to Abbie Marotta and Ava Schubert; and that the holiday concerts would be taking



place next Monday night. Lastly, he added to Joey Casper's report regarding end of day announcements. He stated that it use to take place at the end of the day, but most students don't hearing them because they are leaving and then they tried having the teachers read them to their last class of the day, but sometimes that didn't happen and so Joey doing announcements in less than 60 seconds, quick, not a huge interruption to instruction, everyone hears it and it seems to be working, and he does it really well.

Mr. Kellerhouse reported that he completed his UPK project and that the September/October billing was downloaded by the state and the district should be getting paid.

Mr. Wise reported that he had nothing new to report which in the IT world is a good thing.

#### I. First Read of Policies

The Board discussed and held the first reading of Policies 3150, 3410, 5220 , 5410-5412, 5730, 6121, 6180, 7110, 7410, 8260, 8470

#### J. Consent Agenda Items

##### 1. Approval of Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion by Mrs. Kuelling, seconded by Ms. Taber, and unanimously carried by Board members present the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Educational Law, approves the consent agenda items J2 - J8 as presented. 4-0-0

##### 2. Meeting Minutes 11-20-23

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the meeting minutes of the November 20, 2023 regular board of education meeting as presented. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 3. Treasurers/Warrants Reports

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the Treasurer's and Warrants reports as presented. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 4. CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the CSE/CPSE recommendations regarding student placement as presented. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 5. Food Service Helper - S. Swart

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the appointment of Sally Ann Swart as a 5 hour Food Service Helper at Marion Jr-Sr High School, effective November 27, 2023, rate: \$14.45/hr; fingerprint clearance on file. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 6. 1:1 Teacher Aide - J. Romero

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the appointment of Jessica Romero as a 1:1 Teacher Aide, specific hours of 7:30a - 2:00p, at Marion Elementary School, effective ~~December 5, 2023~~ January 3, 2024, rate: \$14.45/hr; fingerprint clearance on file. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 7. Substitute Bus Monitor/Bus Driving in training - D. Steurrys

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the appointment of David Steurrys as a Substitute Bus Monitor and Bus Driver in Training for Marion Central School District, pending fingerprint clearance. (FY 23/24 December #1)

##### 8. Vacant Extra-Curricular Position

Resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and pursuant to Education Law, approves the appointment of Brittany Lembaris to the paid extra-curricular position of Girls Intramurals at Marion Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year. (FY 23/24 December #1)

#### K. Community Comments

An opportunity for community comments was given; no comments were made.

#### L. Adjournment



Motion by Ms. Taber, seconded by Mrs. Kuelling, and unanimously carried by Board members present, the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the adjournment of its December 4, 2023 meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Mitchell  
District Clerk