

**Marshall Academy Board of Directors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**English Room - 207**

**Proposed Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

Present: Mary Kempinski, Heather Weberling, Chris Brundage, Lonnie Newland, Kasey Williams, Patti Cornwell

Not Present: None

Also Present: Noah Wilson, Don Haist, Ralph Cunningham, Frank Patterson, Leslie Katz, Nicole VanLente, Meghan Martinez, Susan Robilliard, Jacob Mroczkowski, Ken Mroczkowski, Sharon Hopper, Linda Thurman and Mr. Thurman, Danielle Wyrick, James Hackworth, Autumn Wyant, Adah Hackworth

**II. Public Comment\* (limited to agenda items only)**

None

**III. Approval of Agenda and Consent Calendar**

**Motion made by Cornwell, supported by Williams to approve the May 8th, 2019 regular meeting minutes and June 12th, 2019 agenda with changes and additions as noted in the minutes/agenda. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Correspondence**

**None at this time**

**V. Budget Hearing**

Motion to suspend rules for public hearing

Roll Call vote to go into Budget Hearing and Suspend Regular Meeting Rules

Weberling – Yes

Cornwell – Yes

Kempinski – Yes

Brundage - Yes

Newland – Yes

Williams – Yes

Presentation of 2019-2020 Proposed Budget by Frank Patterson. Budget estimated on 275 students. Blended count of 90% in fall (October) and 10% in February. State Aid will likely go up, by approximately \$180/pupil. Inquiries about Robotics, school is pledging \$5,000 to the program to cover costs and loss of grant availability. Discussion about raising teacher salaries and that is included for raises, and teacher salaries are now broken up by K-8 in elementary (new middle school model).

Open floor to public comment regarding 2019-2020 budget.

Roll Call vote to go back to the meeting of the Board of Directors and end public hearing.

Weberling – Yes

Cornwell – Yes

Kempinski – Yes

Brundage - Yes

Newland – Yes

Williams – Yes

## VI. Treasurer's Report

### a. Monthly Financial report

#### a. April Financials

- i. \$93,000 in checking account in beginning of April 1
- ii. \$86,491 in checking account at end of April
- iii. Check register review
- iv. Year to date where Academy stands

#### b. May Financial report

- i. End of May cash balance \$120,546
- ii. End of June estimated to be \$130,267
- iii. Check register review
- iv. Year to date where Academy stands with unpaid bills – about \$18,000

**Motion made by Weberling, supported by Williams to approve the monthly financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### c. Amended Budget

- i. Based on blended count 268 students
- ii. Total revenue at 2.496 million dollars, expense at 2.522.
- iii. Dip was anticipated with capital improvements and increase in transportation costs.
- iv. Loss of students throughout year also created a loss of revenue.

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Cornwell to approve the monthly financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### d. Proposed Budget for 2019-2020

**Motion made by Cornwell, supported by Brundage to approve the 2019-2020 operating budget. Motion passed unanimously.**

## VII. Old Business

### a. Strategic Planning Committee

- a. Survey responses – highlights, the results will be published on the website this summer
- b. Student survey – 95 responses students 7-12
  - i. A system for student reports is needed to help them feel safer
  - ii. Safety – a majority feel safe at 78%
  - iii. Need to increase communication with advisory times

- iv. Bullying down 20% from last year
- v. 84% staying because they want to or have to
- c. Family survey – 90 responses
  - i. 90% of respondents felt welcomed in the classrooms
  - ii. 71% felt the school was a safe place
  - iii. Communication down from previous year – need to improve, and a majority of parents prefer email to communicate.
  - iv. The committee will create a policy and include in the handbook a procedure for communicating with families regarding incidents with what can and what cannot be shared.
- d. Staff survey – 23 responses
  - i. Again, need to communicate better.
  - ii. Professional development was helpful and staff would like more opportunities for it.
- b. Arbor Proposal**
  - a. Spring rototill, spray herbicides and plant oats to get the ground to fertilizer. Fall will be planting of others.
  - b. A small park, not a full plain. Map provided of area along with timeline of planting.
  - c. Now that Mr. Green is resigned he's excited to push for the project and press and work with the club to keep it going.

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Cornwell to adopt Arbor Proposal for Marshall Academy. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Curriculum Committee Update and Proposals
  - a. History Curriculum

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Newland to approve textbook switch to American Journey Modern Times to replace current American History textbook. Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Latin Curriculum
  - i. Switch from one book to another with equivalent costs.
  - ii. Will promote Literacy.
  - iii. Latin teacher will create a 3-5 year plan for Latin instruction at the completion of the 19-20 school year.

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Cornwell to switch from Latin for Children for middle school Latin to Elementa – Teaching Literacy with Latin. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Latin III Proposal
  - i. Advanced coursework with use of Gibbons's *Fall and Decline of the Roman Empire*

**Motion made by Cornwell, supported by Brundage to approve Latin III and proposed book. Motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Chromebooks**

- i. Grant to purchase Chromebooks but then also cover shipping.
- ii. Want to get them to help with testing and group projects.

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Newland to approve purchase of Chromebooks and cart. Motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Dress code**

- i. Addition of clarification in wording and use of leggings with skirts and jumpers in navy blue and white
- ii. Change “dress shoes” to “shoes” and allow all black and brown dress shoes.

**Motion made by Cornwell, supported by Williams to approve changes of wording in uniform policy, to add leggings under skirts and jumpers, and change dress shoes to shoes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Eureka Math – tabled to after Director’s report**

- i. Stretch to K-6 instead of 3-5. Keep 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Saxon going into 7<sup>th</sup>. Revisit math every year and not sell Saxon as we reevaluate.

**Motion made by Cornwell, supported by Brundage to extend Eureka to K-6. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. Business/Management Report**

**a. Director’s Report**

- a. Wants to improve communication – extending weekly Director’s newsletter to families through email and Facebook
- b. Creating survey icon for staff, students, and parents to improve communication and addressing reoccurring items
- c. Tighter discipline procedures
  - i. Cell phone, uniform, and tardy all created and worked really well
  - ii. Want to add gum and other specifics into this
- d. Final evaluations are completed
  - i. Used same format with
  - ii. 0 Ineffective; 9 Highly Effective teachers
- e. Looking for MS Math teacher and HS science teacher
- f. Data Presentation
  - i. Last year out of 14 we met 2, this year we met 9 of them. Increase of a 14% to 64% - a 50% increase in one year. Overall, K-10 Math and Reading 5/22 met goals in 17-18 this year 15/22 met goals in 18-19.
- g. Arbor Plan
  - i. Going forward now, great group ready to head it up. Small park, bench, walkway, native trees, all covered by the DNR.
- h. Summer/community Outreach
  - i. Library drop-ins in BC, Marshall, and Albion

1. Studies show getting books into student's hands is more effective than a summer school in-house program
2. The school will work at all three libraries to check-in with kids, help them find good fit books, and help with graphic organizers
- ii. Two mentoring programs the school is promoting and helping
  1. FAB Academy for MS boys (14 enrolled, most MA students) with Charles Lawler; 10-2 every day
  2. Girls Group with Nora Jackson through the college – completely funded through Albion College – upper elementary and lower high school
  3. Both hosted in Washington-Gardner
- iii. Discussing a Cascarelli night or somewhere for a Family Thank You Dinner
- iv. Party in the Park in Battle Creek and Albion this summer
- v. Popsicle bus went out twice last year and will do it again
- vi. Building Maintenance
  1. Plans to get all classes and carpets done in June
  2. July is paint and fix and clean, want to paint gray about 3 feet up the wall in elementary for little hands touching the walls
  3. Fixing asphalt in July – patching and sealing

**b. Midwest School Services**

- a. Patterson recommended the Board look at spending money on Board Policies – Board should look into National Charter School to review the Board Policies and get them more up-to-date. Always send updates to the Board and do trainings. \$2,000 a year to update; initial cost is \$5,000-\$6,000.

**c. Ferris State University**

- a. Strongly supports the recommendation to look at Board Policy updates and a service.
  - i. Maybe look at inviting National Charter School to come and speak to the board about their services
- b. FSU is offering a significant amount of board and leadership training next year
- c. Encouraged by steps the board and school leaders have taken over the last few years – compliments to the board.

**X. Extended Public Comment (non-agenda items only)\***

- Mr. James Hackworth – father of a 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader. 5<sup>th</sup> grade was difficult with four teachers. Resilient with some growth; did not want to come back. Sold coming back with sports and the ability to play at MA. Met 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher over the summer and fell in love with her, so 5<sup>th</sup> grade decided to try it for another year. Great displeasure that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is not being returned. 8<sup>th</sup> grader also struggled – teacher was able to work with him and help him. He liked that classroom and what he saw. He liked the student-led learning that took place as well. Some of the comments he has heard over the last 24 hours, a concern about going back to the way things used to be. Not sure what that means and he enjoys the diversity he sees now. Unfortunately, with diversity you also get the trauma with new kids. As a school need to focus on what it

looks like to work with kids and build resilience. Concerns with punishments and consequences being administered to students. Upset with rumors, loves Eureka, loves the Arbor proposal. Look at what will set students up for success in the corporate world. Upset by what he is seeing and thinks the school lost a very good teacher who could connect with students.

- Danielle Wyrick – stuck with it through KG to now with a lot of ups and downs. Very disappointed that Mrs. Perez is no longer here. She connected with these kids. A lot of the kids the previous year hated coming to school until this year. This year her daughter was excited to come to school, this is the first year 2-6 she hasn't had to complain. Mrs. Perez listened and helped. One of the best teachers the school has was Mrs. Perez, aside from Ms. Doane and she believes the school may regret it and a lot of parents and teachers are disappointed in that. She has done extra-curricular activities and she was pushed aside. She is very disappointed. Up in the air with what she is going to do next year.
- Letter from a parent – Timbermans – Family has been a huge supporter for 7 years. Amazing years and horrible years. Inexperience of staff has been a part of the problem. Timbermans were pleased with Mrs. Perez after the experience with 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Built trust, respect, and confidence.
- Letters from two other families will be emailed to the board by Mr. Hackworth later.
- Linda Thurman – also has two children. Her 6<sup>th</sup> grade student was pleased with Mrs. Perez and loved her. He had an amazing year; he was knocked down in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This year he was built up and was cared for. 4<sup>th</sup> grade student also has had a lot of teacher turnover. The school needs to retain good teachers and those with experience. As a parent she is shaken with confidence of who is going to be here. She hopes the people who care stick around. Mr. Knoch has been a rock also for her children. Shaken by so much insecurity on who is staying and who will be their teacher.

**XI. Extended Board Comment**

- None

**XII. Reconfirmation of Next Meeting Date: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00pm.**

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Brundage, supported by Cornwell to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Motion passed unanimously.**

/s/ Leslie Katz Date: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Leslie Katz, recording secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors at its July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019