

**MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MARIN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

**MINUTES  
April 22, 2020**

**Special Note: Meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Clark (Sausalito – Marin City), Corbett Elsen (Tamalpais), Carlos Estrella (Reed), Midge Hoffman – (Ross Valley), Doug Marquand (San Rafael Elementary & High School Districts), Michele Rollins (Mill Valley), Kirsten Starsiak (Kentfield) & Deborah Wolfe (Ross).

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Paula Rigney (Larkspur – Corte Madera)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Petri, Executive Director

**GUESTS:**

Kristi Dahlstrom (8:30), Marin County Office of Education Special Education  
Department co-Director  
Phil Eades, First Student Region Vice President  
Mark Frith, First Student Area General Manager  
Ron Mahler, First Student Senior Location Manager  
Deanne Waltz, Executive Secretary at Marin County Office of Education &  
Zoom Conference Host

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Michele Rollins called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. This Board of Directors Meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference. The office of the Marin Pupil Transportation Agency located at 38 Union Street in San Rafael served as the physical location for anyone that wished to participate in person.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

**III. ACTION SESSION**

- 1. Review & Possible Approval of Agenda (8:24 a.m.):** – Members approved the Agenda as presented.

**(M/Midge Hoffman, S/Corbett Elsen)**

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Clark, Elsen, Estrella, Hoffman, Marquand for SRESA,  
Marquand for SRHSD, Rollins, Starsiak, Wolfe  
Nay: No members  
Abstention: No members  
Absent: Rigney

- 2. Consideration and possible action on First Student’s request for continuation of payment for all regularly scheduled services during the school closures due to COVID-19 (8:24 – 8:51 a.m.):** Chairperson Rollins introduced the item. Executive Director Petri presented recommendations regarding contract compliance and payment terms and conditions for the Board of Directors to consider.

Chairperson Rollins made a motion “to authorize Dennis to work with our counsel to negotiate an agreement with First Student, which includes the recommendations he has made today, and bring the agreement back to the Board of Directors for review.”

The Board unanimously approved the motion as presented.

**(M/Michele Rollins, S/Carlos Estrella)**

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Clark, Elsen, Estrella, Hoffman, Marquand for SRESA,  
Marquand for SRHSD, Rollins, Starsiak, Wolfe  
Nay: No members  
Abstention: No members  
Absent: Rigney

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA (8:51 a.m.)**

- CA-1. Approve Minutes of March 13, 2020 Board Meeting.**
- CA-2. Approve Minutes of March 26, 2020 Special Board Meeting.**
- CA-3. Approve Warrants & Registers as follows:**
- a. Vendor Warrants dated March 1 - 31, 2020.**
  - b. Warrant registers (Backup data). 3 sheets attached.**
- CA-4. Action to Ratify Board's Approval of 2019/2020 Second Period Interim Report effective March 13, 2020.**
- CA-5. Acknowledge Receipt of the Monthly Student Count Tally Sheet – inclusive through March 13, 2020.**
- CA-6. Acknowledge Receipt of the Spreadsheet of Students Listed by School of Attendance – for March 2020.**

Chairperson Rollins introduced the Consent Agenda. Being as there were no questions from the Board of Directors, Chairperson Rollins asked for a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. After receiving the Motion, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

**(M/Debbie Wolfe, S/Kirsten Starsiak)**

**Vote by member:**

**Aye:** Clark, Estrella, Hoffman, Marquand for SRESA,  
Marquand for SRHSD, Rollins, Starsiak, Wolfe

**Nay:** No members

**Abstention:** No members

**Absent:** Elsen, Rigney

**Note:** Member Corbett Elsen (Tamalpais) left the meeting prior to the conclusion of the Consent Agenda.

**V. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

**TIME CERTAIN – Scheduled for 8:30 a.m. (Actual time 8:52 a.m. to 8:54 a.m.)**

**Time Certain – Transportation Issues & Discussion:** -- This time is set aside for discussion with representative(s) of the Marin County Office of Education. This month Kristi Dahlstrom co-Director of Special Education was in attendance.

**a.** Kristi Dahlstrom advised that MCOE has not determined whether the Extended School Year (ESY) program will proceed. She will provide an updated report to the Board regarding ESY plans and related safety and preparation issues.

**b.** Doug Marquand (San Rafael Elementary & San Rafael High) stated that, if ESY proceeds this year, the classes normally located at Venetia Valley School will be moved to Davidson Middle School.

**c.** Midge Hoffman (Ross Valley) will report back to the Board regarding ESY plans.

**A. Executive Director’s Report.**

Dennis did not have information to share at this time.

**B. Ongoing: Discussion on California Senate Bill 328 concerning school start times for Middle School & High School programs.**

Corbett Elsen had previously informed Dennis that starting with the 2020 / 2021 school year, Tamalpais High School will begin school at 8:30 a.m. (previously 8:00 a.m.). The start time at Redwood High School will not change until the 2021 / 2022 school year.

**C. Review of Bill Back charges and estimates for fiscal years 2017/2018 thru projected 2020/2021.**

Chairperson Rollins asked the Board to review the information provided in the Agenda Packet and contact Dennis with any questions.

**D. Future agenda items requested by Board members.**

None.

**E. Reminder of next meeting date.**

May 20, 2020

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 8:59 a.m.**

**Scheduled meetings for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 school year:**

**May 20, 2020**

**June 10, 2020**

**Public Records:**

In accordance with Government Code section 54957.5 and the Public Records Act, public records that are distributed to a majority of the Board of Directors concerning open session agenda items will be made available upon request by emailing Dennis Petri at [dpetri@marinschools.org](mailto:dpetri@marinschools.org) or by calling (415) 258-8511. Such records distributed during a public meeting will be made available for inspection at the meeting if prepared by the Agency, or after the meeting if prepared by another party.

**MARIN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**  
**c/o San Rafael High School District Business Office**  
**310 Nova Albion Way**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**  
**Phone: (415) 258-8511 // Fax: (415) 460-9811**  
**Email: [dpetri@marinschools.org](mailto:dpetri@marinschools.org)**

April 24, 2020

To: Phil Eades, First Student Region Vice President  
Mark Frith, First Student Area General Manager  
Ron Mahler, First Student Senior Contract Manager

From: Dennis R. Petri  
Executive Director

**Re: Recommendation read at the MPTA Board of Directors Meeting  
on April 22, 2020**

Gentlemen,

As requested, here are the recommendations presented at the April 22, 2020 meeting:

First Student has asked the MPTA to continue to pay for regular services less “operating profit” and “variable” costs, which First Student has identified as fuel, overtime, and nonessential maintenance. The request is based on First Student’s “understanding” that MPTA would be “made whole” under state legislation SB 117.

After the last meeting, I asked First Student to respond to the Board’s questions. First Student’s responses are in the email from Mark Frith dated March 26, 2020.

Our attorney – Nancy Klein – has explained in a letter to First Student’s current attorney that the MPTA is a JPA, not an LEA, and only LEAs are eligible to receive funds under SB 117. It is highly unlikely that the MPTA will be eligible to receive any funds under any of the legislation enacted to address the COVID 19 emergency.

Continuation of transportation services when students return to school is very important to all of the MPTA members. If the Board decides to explore an agreement to make voluntary payments to First Student, I recommend that the payments be through the regular 2019 / 2020 school year on the following conditions:

1. First Student comply with the Amendment to the Transportation Contract, which First Student’s previous attorney accepted.

2. First Student maintain all facilities and necessary operations ready to provide full services for MPTA routes when the students return to school.
3. First Student use the MPTA funds first to pay the salaries and benefits of drivers and other employees who directly serve the 26 MPTA school bus routes.
4. The terms and conditions of the voluntary payments be put in a written agreement signed by First Student.

I would discuss the agreement with Mark Frith on the details of the agreement and then submit it to the Board for review.