Marlette Community Schools

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James Marshall, Superintendent
Sarah Kady, Business Manager

Board of Education Meeting, January 12, 2026

The Marlette Board of Education convened its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026. Superintendent Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting concluded at 8:26.

New Business, Action Items:

Completed 2026 Board Organization & Regular Board Meeting Schedule
A. Approval of Business Manager - Sarah Kady

Discussion Items:

A. Bond Facilities Update
The Board was presented with a bond proposal update. RJ Naughton with PFM Financial Advisors, Craig Carmoney with IDI and Rob Proper with R&E Development Group gave the board preliminary scenarios and timelines. An August 4, 2026 bond election is being planned.

Superintendent Report:

As we wrap up the final week of first semester with student final exams, I met with the Board of Education for my mid-year progress review to reflect on growth since my evaluation and to discuss performance goals for the remainder of the year. Board President Shane Hunter shared that the Board is pleased with the progress being made and appreciative of the work taking place across the district. January also marked the start of contract negotiations with the Marlette Education Association, and we look forward to a collaborative and respectful process. Winter weather has presented challenges this month, and we will continue to do everything possible to keep our students and staff safe when making decisions regarding school schedules and closures. Throughout the first semester, our students have continued to demonstrate strong academic achievement and personal growth, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the support of our families. As we move into the second semester, we remain focused on our district strategic plan goals, including supporting the whole child, maintaining a safe and positive school culture, and engaging in thoughtful long-term planning to ensure continued success for Marlette Community Schools.

Luke Reynolds – Elementary Principal

- The Marlette Elementary Giving Tree, along with Marlette Toys for Tots assisted over 100 students over the holidays with toys and gifts.
- The elementary is conducting their mid-year benchmark testing and preliminary results are showing growth and improvement.
- Marlette Elementary is hosting Family Board Game Night on Thursday, January 22nd from 5pm to 7pm. The goal is to increase family engagement throughout the elementary.

Jessica Owen – Jr/Sr High School Principal

-Our marketing program has been approved as a CTE with the state

- NWEA mid-year assessment is complete. Data is showing overall, Winter 2025–2026 NWEA Growth Math results show steady and coherent student performance across Grades 6–12. Mean RIT scores increase consistently by grade level, reflecting appropriate vertical alignment and progression of mathematical skills. Most students are performing in the average to high-average percentile ranges, with a notable group demonstrating advanced achievement.

-February 6 Snowcoming Game & Dance on February 7

Sarah Kady – Business Manager

I am honored and privileged to be serving Marlette Schools as the new business manager. When working with State and Federal funds along with local tax dollars, my philosophy is to always be transparent and keep a healthy fund balance for the district all while allocating funds to ensure that our students academic, safety, facility, and extra curricular needs are covered.

At the January 12 Board of Education meeting, the Board heard presentations related to a potential future bond. The primary focus of the bond continues to be addressing the challenges associated with our current HVAC systems, which have reached a point where long-term solutions are necessary. At this time, the District is planning for a potential bond vote on August 4, 2026. Over the past 12 months, the District and community have worked together to review facility needs, including discussions with a representative group of community members regarding what level of investment they would be willing to support in a bond election. During this process, we intentionally paused bond-related efforts in order to focus on the Operating Millage election in November, which passed with a 73% to 27% vote. We are very thankful for the trust and support shown by our community through that successful election.

I will continue to provide monthly updates as we progress toward the potential bond election. In February and early March, I will share additional information regarding the proposed scope of work, followed by an update in March related to any action taken by the Marlette Board of Education.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me. Thank you for your continued support.
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