

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 9, 2021
5:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 914 5169 9033 & Password 240071

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/91451699033?pwd=WTFRcG5vc0Q5OWVmN3E4TjZQaEhodz09>

Members Present: Sarah Gold, Meagan Taylor, Sarah Fox, Emily Barron, David Harris

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Amanda Rivers, School Nurse
Principals:
Dan Bauer, Matt Fox, Amanda Murphy, Brian Ota, Sean Satterfield, Donna Zaeske

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 5:01pm and informed the committee that committee member Harris late.

II. Update on Pool Testing

A pool testing update was provided sharing that the district had recently signed on with the state to participate. The committee was informed that in preparation for implementation, nurse Amanda Rivers was preparing consent forms for participation and awaiting taking part in trainings she had registered for. It was also noted that antigen tests had been ordered. It was further mentioned that the district would be partnered with an online platform for tracking the testing results. Topics for discussion included testing for asymptomatic individuals and the number of participants that could be in a pool. It was shared that testing would be scheduled for at least twice a week and that specific protocols for additional testing and quarantine protocols would be in place for if and when a positive pool was confirmed. An anticipated start date of March 1st was suggested to being testing at both the H.S and the Veterans School.

Mr. Buckey confirmed for Ms. Fox that no additional nursing staff would be hired to implement the pool testing program.

Ms. Gold requested that another update be provided at one of the next scheduled school committee meetings.

III. Consent Action Agenda Items Minutes-1/21/2021

Ms. Fox noted that although no formal vote was taken, there was a general agreement made at the January 21st meeting to hold the February 9th budget workshop at 5:30 instead of the 5pm time it was scheduled for. She requested that the agreement be reflected in the minutes. Ms. Gold and Ms. Taylor recalled that Ms. Barron suggested that a 5:30pm time be offered to the administrators to confirm which time would work best. Ms. Fox stated that she would revisit the January 21st recording to transcribe the discussion. Ms. Gold shared that the minutes could be held until the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting so that the discussion about the time of the budget workshop could be correctly reflected in the minutes.

IV. FY22 Budget Workshop-Building Principal Presentations

Dr. Buckey explained that he had been coordinating with the leadership team to determine individual building budget priorities. He noted that it was early in the budget process to determine set staffing needs across the district due to the building of the new elementary school. It was mentioned that the new elementary school would be structured like the Glover School.

Ms. Fox requested that a budget tracking sheet be provided for future reference.

a. Glover School Budget Presentation

Principal Ota explained that the Glover School budget remained similar to the 2019-2020 school year

budget. He noted that the overall budget spending was decreased due to COVID impacts. It was mentioned that the cost of paper increased as a result of the additional paper used to print assignments for students learning from home. It was reported that Glover would retain two Pre-Kindergarten classrooms with the addition of a transitional Kindergarten classroom. Mr. Ota shared his staffing requests to add a .5 physical education teacher and a .5 music teacher so that allied arts teachers would no longer need to be shared amongst buildings with conflicting schedules. He further reported that the staffing adjustments would support positive scheduling changes supporting the teaching of ELA and Math five days a week.

b. The Lucretia and Joseph Brown Elementary School Budget Presentation

Eveleth and Coffin School Principals Ms. Zaeske and Mr. Satterfield updated the committee regarding the budget priorities for the new Lucretia and Joseph Brown Elementary School. Mr. Satterfield shared that numbers from the Eveleth, Coffin and Village 3rd grade were combined to build the budget. It was highlighted that a goal of the development process was to create resources for a new building that were equitable with the Glover School.

It was mentioned that certain line items such as technology was anticipated to be high. Mr. Satterfield noted that due to the combining of buildings, there may be a reduction in specialist teachers.

Principal Zaeske noted the excitement involved with launching a new transitional Pre-Kindergarten classroom. She also confirmed that the one teacher/two paraprofessional model from the Glover School would be followed. Ms. Zaeske noted that the staffing budget made up about 98% of the budget. It was mentioned that the two counselors were built into the new school budget to continue to support the social emotional health of the students.

Prior to a discussion, Ms. Gold welcomed committee member Harris to the meeting around 5:37pm.

A discussion took place that focused on the utility budget for the new elementary building, budgeting for special education programming including service provider staffing needs and the anticipated cost associated with the a new Pre-K through 8th grade math curriculum.

Mr. Harris confirmed that although the building project remained on time and on budget, it was important to have an alternate plan in place for the start of the school year in case delays that affected opening occurred. Mr. Harris noted that he did not foresee future delays as a concern and agreed with Ms. Fox and Dr. Buckley that alternate plans would help pivot the district more easily should the school experience a delayed opening.

The committee thanked Principal Zaeske and Satterfield for their work and vision with combining three elementary schools into one. Dr. Buckley commended the Principals for their efforts with budgeting to support common planning times and to support equitable resources across both elementary schools.

c. Village School Budget Presentation

Principal Murphy noted that the Village budget was level funded. She explained that certain line items may have been switched to support funding in areas of a larger need. It was shared that budgeting for math needs had been adjusted to reflect funding for supplemental resources which Assistant Superintendent Murphy would address in her update on Thursday. Principal Murphy reported that her two staffing requests focused on funding for either a curriculum coach or a third guidance counselor. She further explained that a request to have Village School specific allied arts teachers would support common planning and teaching time.

Topics for discussion included 1) the possibility of a second special education chair 2) the consideration of an increased nursing supply line due to COVID related personal protective costs 3) technology needs and 4) the use of reclaimed space after the 3rd graders move onto the Lucretia and Joseph Brown School.

d. Veterans Middle School Budget Presentation

Principal Fox explained that the focus for the FY22 Veterans budget would be a how to provided structured tiered interventions. He shared that the only staffing request he prioritized was for the addition of a Reading

Specialist.

A conversation about tiered support and the option of scheduling shorter 6-8 weeks courses took place. Mr. Fox explained that the after school programs focused on executive functioning skills has been very successful.

Committee member Mr. Harris noted the difference in enrollment numbers over the years, which affects scheduling and class size to which Mr. Fox noted he accounted for a 15% increase in enrollment numbers in the FY22 budget.

Dr. Buckey commended Principal Fox for remaining informed regarding fluctuated enrollment numbers in his building.

e. High School Budget Presentation

Principal Bauer noted that his supply line item was put towards funding for digital instructional supplies due to the pandemic. He further noted that a yearly focus of breaking down the Fine Arts budget occurred to ensure all of the department teachers received what they would need to get through a school year. It was mentioned that plans to consolidate line items further in support of funding a graduation ceremony was currently be assessed. Principal Bauer shared that a budget staffing priority entailed transitioning the BRYT Program tutor position into a teacher position. It was mentioned that improving technology at the high school remained a primary focus for the 2021-2022 school year and that Technology Director, Stephen Kwiatek was doing a wonderful job of prioritizing those needs.

An explanation of how graduation is typically funded was requested from committee member Taylor. Principal Bauer informed Ms. Taylor that it was usually funded through revolving funds and user fees.

A conversation about advisory programs and how the Endicott Fellowship program helps support special education staffing needs took place.

Ms. Fox made a motion to add a placeholder to the warrant article for an override. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. A discussion about a debt exclusion and general fund override took place. A discussion regarding the need for an override placeholder occurred and after a ten-minute discussion, it was decided that a placeholder should be added. Mr. Harris confirmed that he thought the placeholder language would be for a general fund override. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Barron-yes
Ms. Fox-yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

Prior to the meeting adjourning, Dr. Buckey thanked the administrator for joining the meeting and conversation, which he stated, "was an important step in getting accurate information out the community." He also updated that community to tune into the Annual State of the Town scheduled for Friday, February 12th at 10:30am.

V. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Dimier, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee*

Approved April 1, 2021