

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday February 11, 2021
5:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 972 4650 3029 & Password 268652

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/97246503029?pwd=ZVA4eEh3ZlNOZUdNQ0dESkJKOVNQZz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda Rivers, School Nurse
Directors:
Eric Oxford, Student Services
Greg Ceglarski, Athletics
Stephen Kwiatek, Technology
Richard Kelleher, Food Services
Todd Bloodgood, Facilities
Michelle Cresta, Finance

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

II. Update on Pool Testing

Nurse, Amanda Rivers provided an update on pool testing sharing that the school district had recently signed on with the state to be part of their free program. Ms. Rivers informed the community that she had placed an order for antigen tests, began preparing consent forms and was in the beginning stages of planning for implementation. She further explained that the district would be paired with an online platform for managing the tracking of testing. The process for how to test with the least disruption was discussed along with the quarantine protocols that would be put in place once a positive pool was identified. It was noted that the anticipated start date of pool testing would be March 1st and it could begin at the high school, where the district was seeing the highest number of Covid cases.

III. FY22 Budget Workshop

Each Director from the individual departments took the time to inform the school committee of their FY22 focused budget priorities.

a. Student Services

The Director of Student Services, Eric Oxford discussed the following:

- Staffing for the new elementary school
- The plan to increase the number of fellows from a total of 4 to a total of 5
- Tuition-in revenues and the option to prepay up to \$200k in Out of District tuition costs
- How grant funding could be allocated to support transportation costs and compensatory services

b. Athletics

The Athletics Director, Greg Ceglarski discussed the following:

- The increase in transportation costs due accommodating for the social distancing guidelines
- Overall Purchases being down from the uncertainty of being able to play certain sports
- The need for new scoreboards along with new hockey and football uniforms and helmets

A conversation discussing user fees and coaching stipends occurred.

c. Technology

The Technology Director, Stephen Kwiatek discussed the following:

- Contracted services for hardware and software
- The updating and upgrading of system switches and the wifi capacity
- Updating the phone system at the high school, the middle school and the central administration offices
- E-rate federal funding and how it worked
- The need for a Technology Integration Specialist

A conversation discussing the leasing options available for phone and wireless services and the ongoing additional costs beyond the first year took place.

d. Food Services

The Food Services Director, Richard Kelleher discussed the following:

- The additional position of a cook and manager at the new elementary school
- The increase in hours for staff joining the new elementary school

e. Curriculum/Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy noted the following areas of concern that assisted her with building the FY22 budget for the Office of Teaching and Learning:

- Aligning curriculum and materials across schools
- Instructional practices and the data culture within schools
- Resuming the adoption of a new Math program which had begun prior to Covid
- Addressing the need for compensatory services due to the achievement gaps that would be a direct result of the pandemic

It was explained that some of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) funding would be used to close chronic achievement gaps. Superintendent Murphy also mentioned the need for two instructional support specialists.

f. Facilities

The Food Services Director, Todd Bloodgood discussed the following:

- The incurred costs from the electric, heating and water of the Eveleth and Coffin Schools that will no longer be open but need to be maintained
- The request for two new custodians to manage the upkeep of the Brown School and an additional request for a full time assistant

g. Central Office

Superintendent Buckey shared that the central office would look to fund a Director of Human Resources and a position for a Communications Liaison. He further explained the need for both sharing that many of the responsibilities of Human Resources were currently being managed by himself, his assistant and the Director of Finance. Dr. Buckey noted that continuous transparent communication would be the expectation of the liaison while allowing himself and his administrative team to focus more on the daily operations of the district.

A discussion regarding the Communication Liaison's full time equivalency status took place. Further discussion regarding the recent history of the Human Resources Department and positions within also occurred.

A committee member shared that they felt all non-student facing priorities should not be considered.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

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

Approved June 17, 2021