

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday February 25, 2021
7:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 969 7530 1549 & Password 253728

<https://zoom.us/j/96975301549?pwd=MUphUGJlT2hUV0ZrTzNCTGc0MmR2dz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Sean Satterfield, Coffin School Principal
Amanda Rivers, School Nurse
Michelle Cresta Director of Finance

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Commendations

a. School Committee Commendations

- Ms. Taylor recognized nurse, Amanda Rivers for her work with coordinating Pool Testing
- Ms. Gold commended the cast of Urine Town for their performances in the musical
- Ms. Gold recognized the student art work on display at the National Grand Bank and directed the community to visit the committee website to review the students who were honored with a Scholastic Arts and Writing Award
- Mr. Harris mentioned the ski team for finishing top in the league. He congratulated the Marblehead All Star skiers who placed 1st-5th in the league:

b. Building Based Commendations-Coffin School, Principal Satterfield

Principal Satterfield thanked the following staff for their hard work during the school year:

Classroom teachers

Counseling team

Special Education Teachers

c. Student Representative – Dan Howells

- Football, volleyball and baseball are all occurring in April
- The ski teams, basketball and hockey teams were recognized for their successful sports seasons
- Football team is fundraising for equipment and the link to contribute will be shared
- Course selection process has begun for 9-11th grade
- Scholarship process for Seniors is beginning
- Family Feud will take place next Wednesday and will be hosted by Senior Advisors

Ms. Fox requested that Mr. Howells share more information about the Senior Project at an upcoming meeting.

d. Public Comment

Ms. Gold noted that public comment would be limited to fifteen minutes. She explained that if there was a request for an additional public comment at the end of the meeting, the members could vote to allow it.

Catherine Martin of 29 W Shor Dr. referenced the recent budget subcommittee she attended in which the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant was discussed. She spoke in favor of using the funds to support the direct needs of the students.

Jess Benedetto of Bradley Rd. spoke in favor of returning children back to school full time with 3ft social distancing noting the mounting evidence supporting claims that it would be safe to do so. Ms. Benedetto offered suggestions on how to safely plan for the return to full time in person learning.

Alexia Kearney read a petition that was being signed by community members in favor of returning students to full time learning with 3ft social distancing.

ICU nurse Jennifer Eaton voiced her concern with returning only the elementary grade levels to more in person instruction and not the middle and high school students. Ms. Eaton's thirteen-year-old daughter, Megan took a moment to speak about the difficulties of learning remote and how much more difficult it was for students on IEP's and with ADHD.

Ms. Gold informed the committee that the fifteen minutes for public comment had been reached and confirmed there would be a motion for an additional public comment at the end of the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

Minutes:1/21/2021

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21st, 2021. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor.

Ms. Fox inquired whether an updated version had been added to the Dropbox to which Ms. Gold responded that she did not believe any changes were made as Ms. Fox had not submitted her edits for clarification.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed all in favor, 5-0.

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

Approval to Declare Obsolete Technology as Surplus

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to allow the items from the memo to be deemed as surplus and recycled. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed all in favor, 5-0.

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

III. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Buckey reminded the community that the return of Kindergarten through 6th grade students does not require negotiations with the union. It was shared that the committee would meet again to vote a date for the return of students grades 7th-12th after family survey results were shared. Superintendent Buckey did clarify that renegotiations with the union for the Memorandum

of Agreement (MOA) were beginning and that updates regarding the renegotiations would be shared once an agreement was made.

A discussion regarding how to opt in and out of the current learning models took place and it was confirmed that the trimester breaks would be the only time to do so.

Pooled Testing Update

Nurse Amanda Rivers provided an update on pool testing sign up and the ordering of supplies. She shared that a neighboring town was requiring mandatory testing for all sports participants which could be a consideration for Marblehead. Ms. Rivers explained her plan for how to test and which days/times of the day.

Superintendent Buckey explained that the free program for pool testing had been extended to seven (7) weeks which would carry the district through April break.

Ms. Fox made a motion to mandate sports to pool test. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gold and shared that the mandate may be pending legal guidance. A conversation regarding whether to vote or table the motion until the committee receives information from legal took place. After a discussion occurred and a recommendation to vote the motion was suggested, a roll call vote was taken. Dr. Buckey noted that the vote to mandate pool testing for sports could be added to the next agenda. The motion failed with a vote of 2-3.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Taylor-no
Ms. Barron-no
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-no

Committee members Taylor and Harris clarified that they were not voting against pool testing and were in favor of voting whether to mandate it for sports after receiving more information at the next meeting.

Contracts: Custodians, Paraprofessionals, Tutors and Permanent Subs

Superintendent Buckey noted the cafeteria collective bargaining agreement was omitted from the agenda and that he would like to include them with the vote.

Superintendent Buckey also explained that the committee would be voting two motions, one to accept the agreements and one to approve a subcommittee for reviewing contract language.

Ms. Taylor confirmed whether the subcommittee already in place would remain the same to which Dr. Buckey confirmed that it would for the administration and that individual representatives for each unit would be included.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for collective bargaining agreements with the MEA-Custodians, Cafeteria, Paraprofessionals, Tutors and Permanent Substitute contracts beginning at the start of the 2021 school year through August 31, 2024 as presented. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

Ms. Gold made a second motion to approve the establishment off subcommittees to investigate and report out findings or recommendations to the parties for consideration on negotiations regarding which changes. The motion was moved Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

2019-2020SY Town Report Submission

Superintendent Buckey shared that each principal contributed to the Town Report personalizing the experience of the 2019-2020 school year which he appreciated as he felt it was difficult to share information about a school year in which he was not working in district.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Cresta shared a monthly financial report update sharing the following:

- 44% of the operating budget had been expended through the end of January
- Out of District Tuition costs had decreased slightly
- Substitute teaching costs has accounted for 13% of the budget
- Two additional sources of funding for COVID related costs have been received
 - 1) The State Coronavirus Prevention Fund for \$98,175 which should help with identified technology needs
 - 2) ESSER II Grant for \$364,464 which can be spent through September of 2023

FY22 Budget Update

Ms. Cresta shared a list of identified budget priorities and their associated budgeted dollar amount. The addition of staff for the new elementary school was included along with an integration technology specialist, leases for new phones, wireless connections and network switching, instructional specialists, funding for a new math program, an H.R Director and a Community Relations Liaison. Ms. Cresta shared a budget tracking sheet and informed the committee that the current target difference between the Town and the schools was a total gap of \$974k

Contract to Award for Fiber Connection

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve a one-time contract for the design and installation of a fiber connection covering all school locations to Comm-Tract of Boxborough, MA in the amount of \$79,900 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the committee.

The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the identified schedule of bills totaling \$406,863.10. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passes, 4-0-1.

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

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

Ms. Gold explained that some policies would not need to be discussed and apologized for the error in adding them to the agenda. It was decided that the face masks policy vote would be pushed to the next meeting since the district would have another week to review and revise it if needed prior to students returning to full in person learning. She further explained that the rest of the policies to be voted were part of the last meeting that ran too long and were held due to the length of the meeting.

Review and Vote of Policies:

EBCFA Face Coverings

Ms. Taylor asked for clarification regarding the reference to the 10ft distancing in the mask policy to which Ms. Gold explained that it was in direct relation to the activities being performed.

IHAM - Health Education

IHAM-R - Health Education Exemption Procedure

IHAMA - Parent Notification Relative to Sex Education

IHAMB - Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs

FFA - Memorials

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the changes to policies IHAM, IHAM-R, IHAMA, IHAMB and FFA. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

Review of Policies:

Ms. Gold informed the committee that the only policies that would be reviewed were the following:

IHBAA Observations of Special Education Programs

IHCA Summer Schools

She also noted that the J policies were being reviewed to update the policies per DESE recommendation after a recent review of the Student Services Department. She confirmed that the policies would be voted at the next meeting.

JFABD Homeless Students-Enrollment Rights and Services

JFABE Educational Opportunities for Military Children

JFABF Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

Subcommittee and Liaison Updates

Ms. Fox shared that she was awaiting the facilities assessment to be returned to which Ms. Cresta explained that a draft should be received within the next three weeks.

Ms. Gold requested that the minutes for the facilities subcommittee be sent to Emily so they could be posted.

There were no METCO or SEPAC updates.

Building Project Update

Mr. Harris shared photos from updates to the new elementary school noting the exciting new state of the art kitchen.

He shared the school mosaic would be revealed at an upcoming meeting and then the final planning for the playground and landscaping would be next.

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business

none

2. Correspondence

Ms. Gold shared information about the plan for a pump track at the high school and a biking project proposal at the Green Street Woods property.

A conversation about liabilities related to leasing the property for such use took place.

Ms. Fox confirmed that the project would not impede on wetlands and Ms. Taylor mentioned the involvement with the Marblehead Conservancy.

Ms. Gold mentioned that there would be a larger conversation about land use with the Town.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve a second public comment. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor Fox

Ms. Barron

Kelly Szalewicz of 23 Railroad St. voiced her disagreement with sending the 7th-12th graders back to more in person learning later than the Kindergarten-6th graders.

Emily DeWitt was unreachable for comment

Mary McCarriston thanked all of the committee members and administrators sharing that she has had an incredible remote experience for her child this year.

Jeff St. George voiced his concern with limiting public comment and public involvement.

Erin Noonan of 15 Beverly Av. Spoke in favor of allowing public comment at both the beginning and end of the meetings. She spoke in favor of pool testing in support of returning students to more in person learning time.

Scott Solberg thanked the committee for allowing public comment at the end of the meetings and reminded the community that everyone is trying and that everyone should remain positive and constructive regarding being so close to returning students back to school in person full time.

Alastar Connor shared that 7th-12th grade students needed more learning time mentioning utilizing more outdoor learning space to support extra time.

Middle school teacher, Fara Wolfson acknowledged all of the teacher still on the call as their days usually start early at 5:30am. She recommended focusing on the resiliency of the students during a difficult time when a lot of things are out of everyone's control.

Amy Whipple thanked the staff at the Village School, middle and high schools. She commended student, Megan Eaton for speaking in front of the community about the difficulty of her learning experience during the pandemic.

Jodi Kerble mentioned her concern with switching schedules again which could create a loss of learning sharing that the hybrid model has worked for her family.

Kate Simcoe of Garfield Street asked for the committee to consider the 3ft social distancing so students could have an increase in learning time and have an opportunity for more socialization.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

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

Approved June 17, 2021