

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday March 11, 2021**  
**7:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 980 6839 2490 & Password 615725

<https://zoom.us/j/98068392409?pwd=VzRnZXgwTHpUMEIFdmg1WlF0YlZDQT09>

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

**Also:** John J. Buckey, Superintendent

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

II. Public Comment

Erin Noonan of 15 Beverly Avenue voiced her concern with presenting a budget that would not meet the needs of the district. She requested that the committee fund a budget that would not include student facing cuts.

Reece Dahlberg commended nurse, Amanda Rivers for her involvement with pool testing.

Kim Day of 18 Liberty Road shared her disappointment over a recently held budget subcommittee meeting where there were no documents for the public to review.

III. In-Person Learning and Student Learning Time update

Superintendent Buckey shared a slideshow presentation for the public to follow along. He explained that the DESE and Commissioner recommended phased plan to return to full-time and in-person learning would include three phases. The phased plan would welcome students in grades K-5th grade back on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and students in grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> back on April 28<sup>th</sup> with a to be determined return date for high school students.

He informed the community that Marblehead's plan would welcome students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade back on Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> for ½ days and shift to full days on April 5<sup>th</sup>. He further noted that both the middle and high schools would return on April 5<sup>th</sup> for ½ days with a scheduling adjustment to full days on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Buckey reminded the community that maintaining the health and well-being of students and staff during the pandemic remained a primary focus. He further shared some statistical data on the steps the district has taken to release updated safety guidance, provide professional development, distribute personal protective equipment, provide additional technology devices to students and staff and participate in new testing technologies to help manage the tracking and quarantining of positive cases.

Dr. Buckey informed the community that during the recent call with the Commissioner, it was shared that the vaccine roll outs were underway and confirmed that educators would become eligible to book appointments within the next week. He further mentioned that the Commissioner shared a letter from physicians and public health educators in support of in-person learning with appropriate mitigation measures. A health study pertaining to social distancing measures and infection rates was also referenced.

Dr. Buckey confirmed that Marblehead families will have the option to remain in a remote learning model through the remainder of the school year. A focus of the call entailed closing learning gaps and the option for a robust summer programming plan to assist with learning loss. Dr. Buckey did mention that the plan for the fall is to return to in-person learning.

Dr. Buckley informed the committee that no vote to return to in-person learning would be required if the Commissioner determined that hybrid and remote learning would no longer be an option since in-person would become the default model of learning. He further explained that changes to learning models could trigger other changes such as teacher-student assignments. He requested that families anticipating a switch amongst learning models not wait until the final moment so that both the middle school and high school principals could plan for adjustments.

The committee members discussed the scheduling changes and how they could impact the students. A conversation regarding the use of the letter “W” for withdrawal on transcripts took place. Dr. Buckley clarified that the concern with the transcripts related to state reporting and that the principals were looking into transcript reporting options to better support students applying to college.

Ms. Fox inquired when the committee may need to vote a new MOA to which Ms. Gold shared that communication was ongoing and would be brought back to the committee as next steps were more clear.

Ms. Taylor inquired about vaccinations and Ms. Gold commended the PTO for securing appointments for staff.

A conversation about the possibility of transitioning grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> to less than 6ft social distancing took place. It was stated that families should have a clear understanding of that possibility as they decide to have their students return to in-person learning.

#### IV. FY22 Update

Dr. Buckley mentioned the budget subcommittee meeting this morning discussed next steps in the process after determining the prioritized budget requests. He clarified that the prioritized list he shared could not include finalized decisions until a number from the town was determined and that more adjustments were to be expected during such an iterative process. A budget subcommittee meeting is anticipated to be held the following Tuesday with the Town.

Dr. Buckley informed the committee of budget calendar changes discussed earlier that day.

Ms. Taylor explained that the dates were selected based around the budget presentation with the Town Finance Committee which is expected to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> pending confirmation from the Town. She explained that the committee would need to add a meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> to vote the budget after the public hearing which was scheduled to take place on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Taylor mentioned meeting on either March 24<sup>th</sup> or March 30<sup>th</sup> prior to the hearing.

Dr. Buckley shared the enrollment projection graph Superintendent McAlduff shared last school year using the survival cohort methodology projecting a decrease in enrollment. He then shared his own enrollment projection the leadership team was currently working on which was projected a bit higher than the recently shared NESDEC projection. A conversation about planning for budgeting adjustments due to a continued decrease in enrollment of pre-kindergarten students took place. It was also mentioned that planning for increasing enrollment also needed to be considered as vaccines became available and students returned to in-person learning.

Dr. Buckley informed the community that Board of Health was taking applications for a Mental Health taskforce. The applications are due by March 22<sup>nd</sup> and appointments will be announced at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Health Meeting.

Ms. Gold requested that all community members interested in volunteering to support the full in-person return of students should visit the website to follow the proper procedure for being fingerprinted and CORI'd.

Ms. Fox motioned to open up to public comment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes, 5-0

Emily Dewitt voiced her concerns advocating for older students to return to in-person learning.

Khazzie Kindle suggested that the district select a return date for high school students instead of waiting for DESE to select a day to which Ms. Gold confirmed for Ms. Kindle that students in grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> were returning to half school days five days a week on April 5<sup>th</sup> and then to full days on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gold shared the slide sharing the information Dr. Buckey had previously discussed during the meeting.

V. Adjournment  
Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

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

*Approved August 3, 2021*