

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday March 30, 2021  
7:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 961 0158 1180 & Password 014259

<https://zoom.us/j/96101581180?pwd=cGRMU0xaUy9iOFJPTWE0K2tvYlgyQT09>

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

**Also:** John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent  
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance  
Greg Ceglarski, Athletics Director  
Matt Fox, Veterans Middle School Principal  
Dan Bauer, High School Principal

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7pm and notified the community that the meeting was being streamed to you tube.

a. Public Comment

Catherine Martin spoke about the budget subcommittee meeting that was held earlier that day. She requested clarification on how budgeting adjustments were made.

Kim Day also requested clarification on how the budget subcommittee closed an \$800K gap down to a \$300k gap.

Erin Noonan requested that learning loss and how remediation would be funded be added to an agenda item.

**II. Consent Agenda and Action Items**

Memorandum of Understanding with the Marblehead Education Association

Ms. Gold informed the committee that the MEA had met and voted to approve the memorandum relating to the in person learning time for students. Questions pertaining to the use of air purifiers and how positive classroom cases would continue to be reported were discussed. Ms. Fox noted that she was prepared to vote the memorandum pending legal council approval.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the memorandum with the MEA pending approval of legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes, 5-0.

**III. Superintendent Report**

a. Softball Field Group Presentation

Athletics Director, Greg Ceglarski shared a drawing of plans to clear out an area near the Veterans softball field to provide more room for spectators mentioning the plans included adding gravel for a walkway and a chain link fence to replace the mesh fencing in the outfield. He also mentioned that the

snack shed that was currently white would be painted to red. It was shared that the work and time to complete the work would be donated from a community member/group.

b. Athletics Spectator Guidance Update

Mr. Ceglarski explained that due to new recommended guidance on spectators, Marblehead would be allowing two spectators per athlete for both teams to all outdoor athletic events. He further mentioned that the indoor sports would continue to allow only two spectators per family for all indoor sports.

c. In-Person Learning Update

Principal, Mr. Fox provided an update on the plan for student learning while in quarantine in preparation for an increase in cases due to moving from 6 feet to 3 feet of social distancing. It was explained that 4-6 students within 3 feet of a positive case would need to quarantine which could create a situation in which the school may need to consider moving into a remote learning model. It was mentioned that a quarantine coordinator would assist families with daily check-ins to ensure students stay on track with their curriculum.

Principal Bauer shared that the quarantine process for students during the first 10 days back to in person would remain the same due to the half day schedule that would be put in place through April 16<sup>th</sup> at the high school. Principal Bauer noted that the H.S would also utilize a quarantine coordinator while continuing to support mitigation efforts, access to PPE and requests for additional technology.

Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy spoke about working with Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade buildings to come up with ways in which the district could come together to provide remote students with more opportunities to feel connected and get acclimated to the school setting again.

#### **IV. Finance Organizational Support**

a. FY22 Budget Update

Ms. Cresta explained that the joint budget subcommittee met earlier that day. She reported that reductions in budget asks were discussed noting that the reductions resulted in funding some budget asks in alternate ways. She informed the committee that the leadership team had prioritized their budget requests into high, medium and low level tiers. It was noted that the position for a community relations liaison was being put on hold and contracted services would be considered when and where applicable. Ms. Cresta reported that the district budget asks for fiscal year 2022 would be \$42, 005,724 with a budget gap of \$331k.

Dr. Buckey explained that he and Town Administrator, Jason Silva would be working together to close the budget gap.

Ms. Fox voiced her concerns regarding a level funded budget and funding positions and leases with one-time funding. She also proposed postponing the hearing until there was a more confirmed secure budget.

Ms. Fox made a motion to postpone the public hearing until there was secured funding for the number the committee presents to the public. Ms. Fox asked that it be noted that no other committee member seconded the motion.

A conversation regarding the budget process and the possibility of an override took place. Dr. Buckey shared that asking for an override during a school year in which the district was operating under COVID constraints and building a new elementary school made supporting an override a difficult choice since there would not be a normal full year of operation for comparison.

Ms. Gold also reminded the committee that additional funding from stimulus funds needed to also be considered.

#### **V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items**

a. Budget Public Hearing Discussion

Ms. Fox explained that she understood the hearing to be an opportunity to seek clarification to community questions and concerns. Ms. Gold stated the hearing is an opportunity for the Superintendent to present his budget with an opportunity for the public to participate during public comment. It was clarified that the meeting was a hearing and not a forum. Ms. Taylor recommended taking notes during the hearing and addressing the questions if they are able to.

**V. Closing Business**

Prior to adjourning the meeting Ms. Fox made a motion for additional round of public comment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Taylor-yes

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Barron-yes

Ms. Fox-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

The motion passes, 5-0.

Catherine Martin expressed her concern with holding a budget hearing without a finalized number. She spoke in favor of allowing the public to participate in the hearing.

Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:02pm.

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

*Approved August 3, 2021*