

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday April 1, 2021
6:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 944 1814 8124 & Password 821673
<https://zoom.us/j/94418148124?pwd=cUhQKzVsd1AyV2xvVDRtbk1oWmNKdz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckley, Superintendent
Candice Sliney, Teacher
Jodi Smith, Juneteenth Organization Representative
Dan Bauer, Principal
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

Ms. Called to the meeting to order at 6:02pm. She entered directly into the hearing for the FY22 budget calling the Budget Public Hearing to order 6:02pm.

Budget Public Hearing FY22

Superintendent Buckley presented his FY22 budget sharing the steps along the way and thanked the members involved in making it a successful process. He walked the committee through the budget priorities such as meeting contractual obligations, supporting technology needs and budgeting for curriculum support specialists. It was shared that the final proposed FY22 budget of \$41.8 million was an increase of \$1.3 million from the previous year. It was mentioned that the proposed budget would include funding a new Math curriculum and the addition of a Human Resources Director.

1. Public Comment

Xazzhie Kindle of Jersey St. shared her concerns regarding one time funding and staffing cuts due to school closure.

Colleen Nile of Bowden St. inquired about how the budget priorities fit into the strategic plan.

Catherine Martin of W Shore Dr. inquired whether an Assistant Principal position would be filled for the space at the new Brown School. She also shared her concerns regarding the use of one time funding to fund long term budgeting needs.

Paul Baker of Overlook Rd thanked the Superintendent and his leadership team for all of the work put in sharing that community members should be thankful for all of the progress.

Anne Simcoe of Marshall St asked that the committee consider not eliminating Allied Art Teachers.

Alastar Connor of Cloutman's Lane inquired about the funding and planning for students who may have fallen behind

Jenny Armini of Russell St inquired if there was state approval to use recovery funding for the new math curriculum

Alexa Singer requested that funding of critical infrastructure be better funded in future budgets with less reliance on money from fundraising organizations such as from the Parent/Teacher Organizations

Sondra Callahan of Naugus Avenue shared her concern regarding nurse staffing needs and the reduction in nurses.

Julie Duggan of Dodge Rd. clarified that the Parent/Teacher Organization was not currently funding smartboards as mentioned.

Mr. Harris and Ms. Taylor thanked the Superintendent and his leadership team for all of the work they have put in on the budget. Ms. Taylor also thanked the community for their participation sharing that she felt it was a productive process.

Ms. Fox spoke against using one time grant funding to fund long term budgeting needs.

The committee members asked a series of questions pertaining to grant funding, enrollment numbers, staffing and facilities maintenance.

A conversation regarding the need for an override took place and Ms. Gold noted that the district was receiving more money than they had in previous years and that the collaborative efforts with the Town would continue to move the district forward.

After a discussion about the budget process took place, Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn the public hearing which was seconded by Ms. Taylor. Ms. Gold confirmed that no motion was necessary and adjourned the budget hearing at 7:41pm.

2. Commendations

Building Based Commendations-High School Principal, Dan Bauer

- Ms. Bauer recognized the DECA Program for their participation in the state level competition, the Unified basketball team for their recent win against Danvers and the Performing Arts Department for their work in preparing for the spring play.
- He thanked the participants involved with the SEL work being done in the district and thanked Nurse McMahon for her hard work
- PCO assistance

School Committee Commendations

- Ms. Gold recognized the secretaries for coordinating coverage during changing schedules and unexpected absences and thanked the Superintendent's Assistant for processing the background checks for parent volunteers.
- Dr. Buckey recognized the unified basketball team sharing that attending their game earlier that day made preparing for the budget presentation easier sharing that groups such as those that are created is exactly why he works in education.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

Minutes:

2/9/2021 and 2/11/2021

Ms. Gold mentioned that just the minutes from February 9th would be voted and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2021. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes, 5-0.

III. Superintendent Report

1. Juneteenth Presentation-North Shore Juneteenth Organization Representative, Jodi Smith and Candice Sliney

Teacher, Candice Sliney shared a presentation on the Juneteenth holiday noting the holiday celebrates the day the Civil War ended and enslaved people were set free. Ms. Sliney explained that the Juneteenth Association focused on dismantling racism and educating communities about African American culture.

Ms. Gold mentioned that the holiday would be observed during the 2021-2022 school year.

2. Superintendent's District Updates

Superintendent Buckey shared an enforcement order from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in regards to the Green St. property. He notified the committee that he and Chairperson Gold would be attending a hearing on Thursday and that a meeting would be scheduled with the Town to further discuss use of the property and the citation.

3. In-Person Learning Update

Superintendent Buckey shared the exciting news that all grade students would be returning to in person learning by April 5th.

He further noted that Kindergarten through 6th grade only would be full days and that 7-12th grades would be returning five days a week for half days to begin.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Monthly Financial Report Including COVID Expenditures Update

Ms. Cresta provided a monthly financial update sharing that the district has expended 52% of their operating budget by the end of March. She noted that the district was currently breaking even on their special education out of district tuition costs. She further shared the percent of the operating budget expended for substitute teachers, custodian overtime pay and unemployment costs.

Ms. Cresta also provided an up to date COVID expenditures report sharing a state report as of March 29th. She noted that the district would be submitting an application for the ESSER II grant in the coming week that would support funding for additional air quality related supplies, masks, mental health supports for students and technology related needs.

2. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept the schedule of bills totaling \$3,315,140.31. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold
Ms. Barron

Ms. Fox
Mr. Harris
Ms. Taylor

The motion passes 5-0.

Superintendent Buckey recognized Ms. Cresta for being a “phenomenal business manager.”

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. School Committee Involvement for Coalition for Racial Justice

Ms. Gold shared that Jackie Belf-Becker, Chair of Board of Selectman would like to ask for a school member to join the Coalition for Racial Justice group and sponsor and attend an April event focusing on the history of Joseph and Lucretia Brown.

Ms. Gold made a motion for the school committee alongside the school department to sponsor the April event. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes 5-0.

2. Review of Policies:

BEDH - Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept changes made to policy BEDH Public Comment at School Committee Meetings. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes 5-0

3. School Committee Website-Push Notifications

Ms. Barron explained that committee members can fill out a form on the committee website to sign up for push notifications for weekly meetings.

4. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates

SEPAC will hold a zoom conference event next Tuesday April 6th at 7pm to discuss developing future readiness skills for your child’s career plans after high school especially for those students with disabilities.

Ms. Fox shared the final facilities assessment should be in within the next week.

5. Building Project Update

Mr. Harris shared video slideshow of the progress of the Lucretia and Joseph Brown School. He noted that tours would be set up for the afternoons in the coming weeks for community members.

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business

Ms. Fox requested an update on the 18 to 22-year-old student population at an upcoming meeting.

2. Public Comment

Scott Solberg of Ramsay Road commended the administration and the committee for all of their hard work with being able to return to in person schooling on Monday.

Cindy Tower Loewen of thanked the committee for all of the work they are doing for the district.

3. Correspondence

None

4. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm.

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

Approved October 7, 2021