

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 19, 2021
7:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 986 1672 9477 & Password 441713
<https://zoom.us/j/98616729477?pwd=WEo3OENLR2MxWW13bkVrU2Jyc0N2Zz09>

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 7:05pm.

Public Comment

None

II. Review of Policy EBCFA-Face Coverings

Ms. Gold explained that per recent changes regarding DESE masking guidelines permitting students to be unmasked while outdoors, policy EBCFA Face Coverings was reviewed by legal and the committee would be discussing the additional recommended edits to the policy. She thanked the clerk's office for ensuring the meeting was posted in time for the committee to be able to meet that evening.

A conversation discussing concerns with the verbiage in the policy took place. Ms. Fox requested that legal be aware of the policy agreeing with state guidance. The committee recommended that certain edits pertaining to referencing mask wearing while on school property and during school hours be reconsidered. It was mentioned that according to the way the policy currently read, all unvaccinated or vaccinated adults, including students over eighteen years old, would not need to be required to be masked or socially distanced while on school property.

Nurse Deanna McMahon shared her concerns regarding masking guidelines and how certain adjustments could affect grade levels differently. She also shared her concerns regarding lunch.

Ms. Gold mentioned taking the policy back to legal to address specific concerns regarding wording pertaining to "during school hours" for adults and to further clarify concerns regarding mask breaks and lunch.

In an effort to avoid lags in policy adjustments over the summer months, Ms. Gold suggested allowing the Superintendent to make changes to the mask policy as directed by DESE guidance until the school committee could meet to vote on said guidance. No vote was taken.

Ms. Fox spoke in favor of delaying the vote until the policy could be further reviewed by legal.

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept the changes that are outlined in the policy by John Foskett with the addition of "during school hours" as discussed earlier in the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Barron and seconded by Mr. Harris.

Dr. Buckey recommended voting to approve changes tonight so that the student athletes could continue to participate in sports following MIAA guidance. He further noted additional adjustments could be revisited at the meeting the following evening.

Ms. Gold asked that the committee think about her suggestion to allow the Superintendent to make masking policy adjustments as recommended by DESE so it could be discussed further at the next meeting.

A roll call vote was taken and prior to all members voting, Ms. Fox voted yes and asked for the motion to be clarified.

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Barron-yes

Ms. Fox-yes and asked for the motion to be clarified

Ms. Gold reread the above motion and Ms. Fox confirmed that adjusting the policy to reflect lunch changes would not be included in the vote that evening to which Ms. Gold confirmed that lunch was not included.

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Fox made a motion to allow for public comment which was seconded by Ms. Barron and the motion passes 5-0.

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Baron-yes

Ms. Fox-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor-yes

Emily DeWitt of 154 Atlantic Avenue spoke in favor of unmaking children at recess and spoke in favor of also doing the same for sports. She further shared that the masking guidelines could be difficult to follow reminding the committee that community members could become easily confused with all of the changes.

Teacher, Eileen D'Amour inquired about adjusted singing guidelines from DESE and requested knowing when they changed as soon as possible.

Ms. Gold read the voted section of the mask policy aloud for clarification.

*“Masks must be worn by all individuals inside school buildings (including all schools and the school district central offices) and on school transportation. Students are exempt from masking requirements when outdoors on school property, even when social distancing cannot be maintained. All other individuals who are not students must continue to wear masks outdoors, **during school hours** on school property when social distancing cannot be maintained. Individuals attending school-sponsored events that do not occur on school property are subject to the masking requirements applicable to that property.”*

Andrew Kramer 7 Clifton Avenue confirmed that attending a game or an event as a spectator does not require a mask.

III. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.

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

Approved January 6, 2022