

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday June 3, 2021
7:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 971 3100 6575 & Password 553042

<https://zoom.us/j/97131006575?pwd=SWxCYjJmdFFNSEdOOFA1eWVbWUFRdz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Sean Satterfield, Principal
James Slavet, Psychologist
Gina Hart, Adjustment Counselor
Chloe Pickering, Student
Tess Keaney, Student
Deandra Williams, METCO Director
Stephen Kwiatek, Technology Director
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance
LeeAnn Fairbanks, Teacher
Lyn Holian, Teacher
Lisa Quillen, Teacher

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

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

2. Commendations

a. Building Based Commendations-Coffin Elementary School Principal, Sean Satterfield

- Thanked the PTO for hosting the fun run which raised over \$18k to be used by the allied arts department
- Commended the custodial staff for the set up and break down of tents

b. School Committee Commendations

Ms. Fox thanked the community members and staff for helping the district get through a trying year.

Ms. Gold noted that she would be reading updates from student representative, Mr. Howells while he participated in senior week activities.

- Senior week is taking place this week
- The prom was held outdoors in the parking lot which was enjoyable. Parents and staff were thanked for their efforts.
- The senior show took place that same evening
- Graduation would be held the following evening, on Friday June 4th
- The Biology MCAS for Freshman will be next Monday and Tuesday
- Officer elections will be held the following day
- Mr. Howells will provide an end of the year report at the final school committee meeting. He will also introduce his student representative replacement.

3. Public Comment

- Cindy Tower-Loewen of 12 Trinity Rd. thanked Dr. Buckey for making a difference on the social race and justice front while embracing it. All while being a new Superintendent.
- Paul Baker of 79 Overlook Rd. thanked the committee for handling a difficult year during COVID and commended them for their efforts.

II. Superintendent Report

1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Presentation-High School

Psychologist, James Slavet shared information on a survey that was part of a larger social emotional learning initiative where staff members and students came together in an effort to pilot more social emotional classroom learning activities.

Adjustment Counselor, Gina Hart assisted with the data collection that would help to uncover risk associated behavior to understand how to better support students and programming. Over 500 students responded to the survey.

A presentation by Chloe Pickering and Tess Keaney was screen shared to walk the committee through results.

Superintendent Buckey commended the students for the research and analysis presented. Dr. Buckey also mentioned that a follow-up survey will go out over the summer to continue to inform for the planning of professional development opportunities.

2. District Updates

Dr. Buckey introduced the new METCO Director, Deandra Williams. Ms. Williams thanked the community for welcoming her and shared her excitement over working with leadership to focus on an inclusive environment.

a. Bus Transportation Update

Technology Director, Stephen Kwiatek provide an update on a new bussing software called School Bus Manager. Some features of the considered software would include 1) a hosted system 2) distance tracking 3) a field trip tool to help plan and track travel. A GPS tracker, tablet for applications and a parent application are additional options.

Dr. Buckey discussed the options for sending families a survey to understand transportation needs within the district.

Ms. Fox shared that continued progress should be made towards providing safe and expanded bussing to the community.

Ms. Taylor reminded the committee that the commitment to have a bus pilot program for September was underway.

b. Sustainability Update

Dr. Buckey explained that the goal for the opening of the new Brown School would be the elimination of polystyrene. It was mentioned that the expansion of composting beyond the high school was set to roll out prior to COVID and would be revisited. Dr. Buckey shared sustainability would play an important role in the Planning for Success initiative in the future.

Ms. Fox shared that Sustainable Marblehead recently attended a facilities subcommittee meeting. She thanked them for their supportive efforts offering to assist with implementing composting and recycling in other buildings.

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to fund no more polystyrene next school year. Ms. Taylor clarified with Dr. Buckey his intentions to begin the 2022-2023 school year polystyrene free to which he did confirm. A conversation regarding the potential for increased lunch prices to support a polystyrene free school took place.

Although no formal vote was taken, the consensus was that no vote was required as the decision to open polystyrene free was an operational one. Ms. Fox requested that the record reflect that the motion was not seconded.

c. BikeMOR Update

Dr. Buckey informed the committee that BikMOR has completed remediation work at Green St. with one more meeting on June 10th to finalize things. It was shared that the Town has provided a user agreement and a meeting to discuss liability would be scheduled.

3. Retiree Recognition

Dr. Buckey thanked his assistant for recommending that the retirees join the meeting to share 1) what it is they will miss about their position and 2) what they are looking forward to during their retirement.

LeeAnne Fairbanks, a 2nd grade teacher at the Coffin School has been employed since 1998 and retired in December of 2020. She will miss her students' thirst for knowledge and laughing with students. She will look forward to her trip to view the Northern Lights and the opportunity to reinvent herself and life.

Lyn Holian, Library/Media Specialist retired in March of 2021. She will miss the stories her students tell. She is enjoying playing instruments and working with the historical society to document historical events.

Dale Nicholson who was unable to join was recognized for her tenure as a technology education teacher at the Veterans School since 2015.

Lisa Quillen, 1st grade teacher at the Glover School has been employed with the Marblehead Public Schools since 1989 and will retire in June of 2021. She explained that she would miss the spontaneity and humor of her students and shared some moments of memories she held near to her. Ms. Quillen noted she was unsure of her retirement plans yet welcomed new adventures.

Meredith Reardon, counselor at the Veterans School who has worked in district for the last thirteen years was unable to attend. It was shared on her behalf that she was excited to kayak, garden, hike and play the guitar.

Dr. Buckey recognized other recently retired staff members, Barbara Hawlena, Peter Lawton, Leigh Webster and Principal Donna Zaeske who will retire at the end of the year.

III. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$3,942,334.20. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passes, 5-0.

IV. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. Superintendent Evaluation Summative Report

Ms. Gold highlighted the summative report and ratings that were provided. She went through each goal and noted the individual ratings that helped to inform the overall ratings for each goal area.

Ms. Fox shared that she felt areas of improvement should be more clearly identified in the summative report.

Ms. Taylor thanked Ms. Gold and the Superintendent's Assistant for taking the time to compile the summative and incorporating all voices of the committee members. She agreed that areas of improvement could be more clearly defined.

After a conversation regarding the process, ratings and comments included in the final summative, Mr. Harris recommended that the summative be accepted as presented that evening and to allow committee member to submit small changes to revisit and approve such revisions at a future meeting.

Ms. Taylor clarified with the committee that no content or ratings would be adjusted. She further confirmed that adjustments would only be made to move sentences up to the summary section so as to highlight certain assessment points. It was noted that the process and ratings were equitable and fair.

Although no formal vote was taken, the committee agreed to revisit the approval of the assessment with suggested edits at the meeting on the 17th.

Mr. Harris requested that the record reflect that he was in favor of approving the recommended summative as presented that evening to which Ms. Gold agreed.

2. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates

- Ms. Barron welcomed the METCO Director, Ms. Williams.
- The RIDES program just completed their final workshop and more will be scheduled in the fall
- A DEI mission statement is being constructed
- An equity focused training is scheduled for the leadership team over the summer
- The Unsung Hero's event will be virtual and information will be coming out soon
- A strategic plan for facilities is being worked on
- A facilities meeting is scheduled within the next few weeks

3. Building Project Update
 - A photo of the driveway entryway of the new elementary school was shared
 - A Photo of the progress of the playground area was shared
 - A photo of the interior of a new classroom was shared

V. Closing Business

1. New Business

Ms. Fox inquired about the reopening committee and the planned timeline for the committee for the following year.

Ms. Gold mentioned providing more regular updates to the committee and explained that the information is regularly brought before the school committee at the bi-weekly meetings.

2. Correspondence

None

3. Public Comment

Student, Anne Simcoe of 77 Garfield St. recommended a fundraiser to help pay for the cost of reusable cafeteria plates. She also recommended finding a way to more sustainably package lunch trays.

Catherin Martin of West Shore Drive inquired about the look ahead for the Planning for Success process.

Scott Solberg welcomed the new METCO Director and shared his excitement about the Planning for Success process.

Abby Brack Lewis, of 4 Park Lane and CO President of the Bell, Coffin and Gerry PTO clarified that the funds raised from the fun run would be used to support the educational needs of the new elementary school. How the funds will be used would be voted by the organization at an upcoming meeting.

Jess Benedetto requested that the committee motion to fund a bus for students that do not have a safe route to school.

METCO Director, Ms. Williams commended the high school students for their social emotional learning presentation and recommended incorporating demographics in the surveys and survey comparisons.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:27pm.

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

Approved January 20, 2022