

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Tuesday August 24, 2021
7:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 831 8625 7534 & Password 069045

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83186257534?pwd=RitxWGNONE1PMnplc1N6Rk55RUttdz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Nurse Candidates, Amanda Mavros and Joseph Griffin
Nurse, Deanna McMahan
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance

I. Initial Business and Public Comment

a. Called to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and noted that all members other than Ms. Fox were present. Ms. Fox joined the meeting virtually at 7:05pm.

Ms. Gold shared that earlier that day the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education granted the Education Commissioner the authority to mandate masks for all k-12 school buildings throughout the state. A mask mandate will remain in place until October 1, 2021.

Ms. Gold further explained that the Superintendent would be discussing the mask mandate that evening and that the agenda for a meeting the following Thursday has been amended to include a K-3 scheduling update.

Before beginning the public comment section of the meeting Ms. Gold requested that community members comment on agenda specific items and keep comments to 3minutes in length per the policy guidelines.

b. Public Comment

- Ms. Jessica Schott of Oak Circle spoke in favor of holding two daily recess breaks for lower elementary students.

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Veterans School Nurse

Principal Fox informed the committee that he was recommending Ms. Amanda Mavros for the nurse position at the middle school. He gave a brief introduction of her professional background which has included working at Brigham and Womens and Spaulding Rehab. It was shared that Ms. Mavros held two degrees; a degree in nutrition

and one in nursing. As an additional bonus, Ms. Mavros has already spent time as an on-call sub in the district.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve Amanda Mavros as the Veterans School nurse
Which was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Harris, Ms. Barron, Ms. Fox-all in favor

b. COVID Coordinator Nurse

Due to technical difficulties with the recommended candidate joining the meeting, this agenda item was discussed following the Superintendent's Report.

Following the Superintendent's Report and after a brief introduction, Ms. Gold made a motion to appoint Joseph Griffin as a long-term substitute nurse and COVID Coordinator. The motion was moved by Ms. Barron and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed, 5-0

Ms. Gold, Ms. Fox, Ms. Baron, Mr. Harris and Ms. Taylor-all in favor.

III. Superintendent Report

a. Back to School COVID Preparedness Plan

i. Superintendent Recommendations and Mask Discussion with board of Health

Dr. Buckey provided an update on the plan for returning to school. He shared DESE guidance regarding the plan to return to school in-person full time for five days a week. He further explained that a state sponsored testing program was being looked into. COVID mitigation strategies was discussed and it was explained that masking, social distancing, ventilation considerations and personal protective equipment along with cleaning protocols was of primary concern to ensure a safe return.

Lead Nurse, Deanna McMahon provided an overview of the COVID state testing program. She explained symptomatic testing, close contact testing "Test and Stay" and routine pooled testing. She further explained close contact concerns and the quarantine guidelines for both positive and close contact cases. It was noted that a district attestation form would be used to monitor staff and students for daily symptoms.

The Food Services and Technology Directors also provided department updates for the start of the new school year.

- Federal Lunch Program-meals will be covered for all students
- Technology Updates
 - Increased bandwidth
 - New firewall for increased internet speeds

- Additional wireless connections
- Phone upgrades
- New website with Blackboard Connect capabilities

A conversation regarding the plan for daily lunch delivery and the use of grant funds to help offset deficits of the lunch program took place.

It was mentioned that any references to the “Reopening Committee” would pertain to the new Superintendent’s Advisory Leadership Team SALT. Dr. Buckey shared that the new group would welcome MEA representatives and district directors.

After a committee member inquired, it was confirmed that three hundred and fifty (350) air purifiers have been ordered to be used throughout buildings and that masks would be available to all students daily.

IV. School Committee and/or Discussion Items

a. Bus Fee Update

Director of Finance, Ms. Cresta provided a bussing update sharing that the district would be providing free transportation to Kindergarten through 6th grade students who live over two miles from school. Registration will be required for all student riders.

She also informed the committee that the district will be launching a new bus pilot program in which an optional fee based transportation program will become available to K-6 students who reside less than two miles from school. It was explained that eight (8) additional seats would be available. Registration will be on a first come-first serve basis and the fee will be \$250 per student. Interested families should register at transportaion@marbleheadschoools.org when registration opens on Friday August 27th at 9am. Ms. Cresta noted that due to the fee involved, the committee would need to vote to approve the cost for the optional program.

Ms. Fox shared her concerns regarding a national shortage of bus drivers and obligations to meet the bussing needs of students. She also inquired about courtesy bussing for families assigned to alternate schools during the building of the new elementary school. Ms. Cresta confirmed that a bus from Coffin to Eveleth would be run for the first six weeks of the school year.

Dr. Buckey confirmed that the district was working to incentivize training to become certified to drive a bus.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

None

b. Correspondence

- c. None
 - d. Adjournment
- Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting 8:51 pm.

Materials Included:

Veterans Nurse Recommendation
COVID Coordinator Nurse Recommendation
Superintendent's Reopening Update
Bus Fees Memo

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

Approved February 17, 2022