

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting-Retreat
Tuesday August 3, 2021 9:00am
Glover Elementary School**

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Electric Department Representatives
MASC Representatives

I. Call to order

Ms. Gold Called the meeting to order at 9:05am and the electric department also called to order.

II. Electric Department Presentation

Representatives from the electric department attended to discuss Massachusetts climate law for regulations through 2050 and the interest in setting up a joint committee to address climate change concerns. The ownership and use of parcel number 146-33-0 located by Tioga Way was also discussed. It was explained that the department is interested in acquiring the parcel owned by the school district to reconfigure the electricity that comes into the Town from Salem. It was mentioned that substation upgrades were needed in various areas and that the project, pending detailed site preparation, could increase reliability and more efficiently process greenhouse gas emissions. For the land to be transferred from the Town to the department, the school would need to 1) relinquish control and 2) vote for the care and custody of the land to go to the Town so a final vote could take place at Town Meeting.

Ms. Fox made a motion to transfer care and custody of control of parcel 146-33-0 to the Town and declare it as surplus. Mr. Harris seconded the motion and the motion passes, all in favor, 5-0.

A discussion about the future possibilities of the site took place. Topics discussed focused on harnessing renewable energy sources closer to home, more solar energy use in schools and incentivizing electric vehicles to help lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The representatives confirmed the department would reach out to Chairman Gold to coordinate a committee. It was also noted that the liaisons from the Facilities Subcommittee would represent the school members of the joint committee that would be formed.

III. Minutes:

3/4/21, 3/11/21, 3/18/21 and 3/30/21

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve all minutes listed on the agenda. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Barron. The motion passes, passes 5-0.

IV. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$3,799,816.69. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion passes, 4 in favor with Ms. Fox abstaining.

V. Superintendent's Report

a. Homeschooling Revisited-Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy

Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy revisited the homeschooling process from the presentation she gave in late winter. She reminded the committee that, per the Department of Education, there would be no remote schooling options for the 2021-2022 school year with the exception of medically necessary cases. It was shared that requests for homeschooling would be moved to an online platform so communication with families could become more efficient. Documents providing evidence of instructional plans will be stored electronically and reminder emails to provide evidence of progress will be generated. Registration information will be added for students who have long term medical needs. Although no formal vote was taken, it was agreed that the plan for an electronic format should be pursued. It was recommended that a link be added to the Assistant Superintendent's webpage.

b. Superintendent's Update-Dr. Buckey

Superintendent Buckey discussed legal service representation and the plan for sending requests for proposals. Although no formal vote was taken, it was decided that three firms including the district's current representation would be invited to interview with the committee. It was also decided that interview workshops would be scheduled later in the month or early September so that a final determination could be made by the end of September.

Superintendent Buckey provided an update on the Leadership Retreat held at Endicott for three days. He mentioned the plan for a book study in which each member will take turns leading the team in a chapter they have studied. He further shared the planning taking place for professional development focused on multi-tiered systems of support-MTSS. It was also mentioned that an LGBTQ presentation will be held in the fall.

Information on COVID planning was shared and the committee was informed that a decision to mask in the fall would be made by August 15th. Ms. Gold spoke in favor of making a later determination as guidelines were constantly changing. Other topics discussed focused on a recent vaccination clinic, the remediation efforts in place, pool testing participation and the individual buildings plans to pivot to hybrid or remote if case numbers increased.

The following additional updates were shared:

- Enrollment numbers per building
- The anticipated opening date for the new Lucretia and Joseph Brown School
- Hiring updates for an Interim Director of Student Services, an HR director and a nurse for the Veteran's School

Superintendent Buckey noted a shift in enrollment numbers from Brown and Glover Schools.

A conversation regarding the potential for a delayed opening of the Brown School took place. It was noted that the Building Committee would meet on Monday August 9th to make a recommendation for a delayed start or an opening as anticipated on September 1st.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the search committee for the student services position would meet the following day, discuss an interim versus permanent role, gather recommendations and bring the information back to the committee for approval.

VI. Massachusetts Association of School Committees Presentation

This agenda item came out of order as it was originally listed as the final item on the agenda.

MASC representatives Glenn Koocher and Dorothy Presser attended the meeting to go over school committee best practices. Topics for discussion included:

- Protocols and goal setting
- Evaluations and progress monitoring
- Prioritizing professional development
- Policy overview

Mr. Koocher provided the committee with a handout focusing on norms and protocols sharing it is an informative resource to have. He reminded the committee of their roles to 1) set goals 2) monitor progress 3) focus on student achievement and 4) watch the budget

A conversation about public comment guidelines and holding public forums took place. It was noted that certain districts set specific guidelines for public comment to assist with the flow of the meetings. It was also shared that public forums were not very common or frequent and usually held to address specific community concerns or one to two topics.

Mr. Koocher explained the exploration of professional development around the recent uptick in school committee meetings becoming targets of political agendas. He further noted the importance of ongoing policy review to address outdated policies/procedures.

Others topics for discussion included the use of social media by committee members and incorporating best practices for use in committee protocols.

VII. Protocols and Goals

a. Subcommittee and Liaisons Appointments

Ms. Gold recommended keeping the subcommittees and liaisons the same for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Gold further noted the following changes:

- Collective Bargaining Committee will no longer be needed
- The Park and Rec MOU will defer to facilities instead of the Town
- Town side of Fincom representatives will change
- Building Committee will continue through school committee until the end of the year
- The Reopening Committee will become a Superintendent's Advisory Committee
- The school advisory positions will remain with Ms. Fox representing Brown School

Ms. Fox voiced her interest with participating on the budget subcommittee. She further confirmed that she could participate in public comment during subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 subcommittee and liaisons assignments to remain the same as the previous school year. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion passes with 4 in favor and 1 abstention from Ms. Fox.

b. Operating Protocols and School Committee Goals

After a brief discussion Ms. Gold made a motion to accept the protocols as is for the current school year. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

It was agreed that self-evaluations would be written up and sent to the Superintendent's Assistant and Ms. Gold by August 27th for tallying areas of strengths and improvement.

c. Meeting Organization

A conversation about meeting organization took place and it was decided that the meetings would continue to be held at 7pm. Ideas for incorporating a more structured public comment section took place. It was recommended that public comment be limited to fifteen (15) minutes total with community members being held to the three (3) minute policy timeframe. It was also mentioned that speakers could sign up in advance and for those that could not attend, they would have their comments added to correspondence.

Ms. Gold also informed the committee of the plan to use Google Drive instead of Dropbox in an effort to better manage meeting documents to which all were in favor of.

d. 2021-2022 School Year Handbooks

After a conversation about building start times, half-day dismissal times, clothing equity concerns and policy references took place, Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 school year handbooks with edits requesting that policies be linked to the new website. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. The motion passes, all in favor.

e. MASC/MASS-November Joint Conference

Ms. Gold informed the committee of a meeting conflict in November due to the MASC/MASS joint conference falling on the same day as the first November school committee meeting. Although no formal vote was taken, it was decided that the meeting could be held on Wednesday November 3rd instead if the committee decided to reschedule.

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 3:19pm.

Materials Included:

Electric Department-Article 45

Schedule of Bills Memo as of 7.30.21

Homeschooling-Proposed Changes Presentation

Enrollment Comparison

MASC-Norms and Protocols

Subcommittee and Liaisons for 21-22SY

Operating Protocols and Goals for the 21-22SY

Meeting Organization and Google Drive Use for 21-22SY

Handbooks for 21-22SY-Elementary, Middle and High Schools

MASC/MASS Joint Conference Schedule

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved February 3, 2022