

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting  
Thursday February 15, 2024  
7:01PM

Members Present: Sarah Fox, Brian Ota, Jennifer Schaeffner, Alison Taylor, Al Williams

Also Present: Dr. Theresa McGuinness-Interim Superintendent, Michelle Cresta-Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Julia Ferreira-Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

I. Initial Business

a. Call to Order

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

b. Commendations

- Alison Taylor would like to commend the MHS Hockey Team who is competing in finals in Canada
- Jennifer Schaeffner would like to commend both of the MHS's Acappella groups for their performances this year
- Brian Ota would like to welcome the new School Committee member Al Williams

c. Public Comment

- Nancy Powell-72 Front Street
  - Nancy is speaking on behalf of the League of Woman Voters
  - The League would like to host a public forum featuring the School Committee to discuss some of the issues that have arisen recently within the community
  - A nonpartisan forum would be a "productive next step"
  - They request that the proposal be accepted during the "New Business" portion of the meeting
- Amy Dracker-30 Gregory Street
  - Amy is the author of the letter read at last week's school committee meeting and would like to enter the letter into Public Record tonight
  - In the last week over 760 people over the age of 18 have signed the online petition
  - "The message is a call to action as to how you will address the issues raised by the community regarding our schools"
- Mary McCariston-46 Pine Cliff Drive
  - Mary welcomes Al and is hoping that he will be able to "corral" the committee for the kids

d. Student Representative-Cat Piper

- Quarter 2 Report Cards were published and released on 02/06/24
- The Spanish Class trip to Spain will be during February Vacation
- Team Harmony has been visiting Elementary and Middle Schools to speak on social justice and equality
- Informational sessions for the 2025 Greece trip will be held during April Vacation
- Magic Hat is looking for Student volunteers to work and continue to raise money for the schools. They will receive honors society points for their service
- School counselors will be starting sessions with Juniors to assist them in applying for college
- Auditions for the MHS Spring play "The Prom" were held today

- The Junior class is looking for donors for their upcoming auction, they are aiming to raise \$50,000
  - Sophomore Semi-Formal tickets will be on sale starting 02/26/24
- II. District Updates-Dr. Theresa McGuinness
- Dr. McGuinness introduces Patricia Bell
    - Interim Student Services Director for MPS for the remainder of the 2023/2024 School Year
  - Dr. McGuinness introduces Mary Delai
    - Consultant that will be here on a part time basis to assist in the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations role through the remainder of the 2023/2024 School Year
  - Dr. McGuinness provides an update on the “Student Services Steering Committee”
  - Wit and Wisdom mid-year update- Julia Ferreira, Mary Ellen Hart, Mary Leblanc, and Rebecca Brand
    - Julia, Mary, Rebecca and Mary give a curriculum update on the Wit and Wisdom Literacy Program
    - Wit and Wisdom provides opportunities for students to practice their skills in writing, speaking, and listening
    - They provide an overview of the reason Wit and Wisdom was selected for knowledge and curriculum building for our Students from K-6
    - Julia shares how the program was implemented initially to ensure the program was successful
    - Training was provided for educators to launch the program
    - Graphs are shared outlining the growth of our students through this program
  - School Calendar 2024-2025 (vote)
    - The MEA has not voted on the PD days but the draft of the calendar presented at the last school committee meeting is the final version

*Motion to approve the School Calendar for the 2024/2025 School Year as was presented at our last School Committee Meeting 02/01/24*

Moved by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr Ota

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Schaeffner-All Yes

Mr. Williams abstained from the vote

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 4-0 with 1 abstention

- Budget Update – Dr. McGuinness and Michelle Cresta
  - 02/28/24 the FY25 Budget will be presented to the Budget Workshop
  - They will be presenting a Level Services Budget and a Reduced Services Budget
  - The Budget Book will be ready by the end of next week to present to the School Committee

### III. Consent Action and Agenda Items

#### a. Schedule of Bills (vote)

*Motion to approve the identified schedule of bills totaling \$762,430.73*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Schaeffner-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 4-0

b. Approval of Minutes (vote)

*Motion to approve the minutes as presented for 12/07/23*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, and Ms. Schaeffner-All Yes

Mr. Williams abstained from the vote

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 3-0 with 1 abstention

#### IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. I Am Bill (vote)

- Megan Sweeny presents the I Am Bill as a representative of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Mass NOW)
- The I Am Bill increases access to menstrual products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters and Public Schools

*Motion to approve the Marblehead School Committee supporting the I Am Bill and to write to our elected representatives*

Moved by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Schaeffner and Ms. Fox-All Yes

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

b. Interim Student Services Director (vote)

*Motion to approve the contract for Interim Student Services Director Bell*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Mr. Williams

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

c. School Business and Operations Position (vote)

*Motion to approve the contract for the School Business and Operations Position*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Mr. Williams

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

d. Village School Overnight Field Trip Approval (Bournedale) (vote)

*Motion to approve the Village School overnight field trip to Bournedale 05/21/24*

Moved by Mr. Williams, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

e. Marblehead High School Program of Studies Change (vote)

- Michelle Carlson gives a presentation outlining the changes to the Marblehead High Schools Program of Studies

*Motion to approve the Marblehead High Schools Program of Studies changes for the 2024/2025 school year*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Mr. Williams

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

f. Marblehead High School DECA Overnight Field Trip Change (vote)

- The Hotel location has changed

*Motion to approve DECA Overnight field trip with the change in hotel*

Moved by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

g. Pre-School and Kindergarten Tuition Rates (vote)

- Michelle Cresta presents the current Kindergarten and Pre-School Tuition Rates
  - Kindergarten tuition rates have not seen an increase in 3 years
  - Pre-School tuition rates have not seen an increase in 2 years
  - Looking for an increase of \$500 in each of these programs
    - Kindergarten-\$4000 for the year
    - Pre-K 1/2 Day \$5000 for the year / Pre-K Full Day-\$7000 for the year

*Motion to approve the Tuition rates for the 2024/2025 School Year as follows:  
Full Day Kindergarten \$4000, Pre-School ½ Day \$5000 and Pre-School Full Day \$7000*

Moved by Mr. Williams, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

h. Athletic and Activity User Fee Rates

- No vote on this tonight
- Activity and User Fees directly impact the school budget
- Used to pay for half of the stipends
- A proposal will be ready for the School Committee at a future meeting

i. Superintendent Search Process Discussion(vote)

- Sarah Fox references a letter that was written to the editor that the school committee is taking “very seriously”
- We received guidance from our Legal Council that the School Committee attend a training
- MASC hosts a training that focuses on Districts in transition called “Training and Transitions”
- Glen Kucher has made a proposal to move forward with a search for a Interim Superintendent

j. Upcoming Meetings Forum

- Sarah Fox will work with the League of Woman’s Voters to get some dates for community the forum requested

k. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates and Discussion

- METCO Day of Action will be happening soon
- Finance Committee Liasson’s meeting 02/16

V. Closing Business

- Brian Ota asks where the RFP is for the Special Ed audit request
  - It will be released by the end of next week
- High School Roof repair OPM will be released next week

a. New Business-School Committee Announcements and Requests

- None

b. Correspondence

- None

c. Adjournment

*Motion to adjourn*

Moved by Mr. Ota, Seconded by Mr. Williams

Mr. Ota, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Williams, Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner -All Yes

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

Meeting is adjourned at 9:17PM by Ms. Schaeffner

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison McMahan, Secretary  
Marblehead School Committee