



MA 01945
MARBLEHEAD

DATE POSTED:
Town Clerk Use Only
2024 JAN 13 AM 9:22

MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A § 20 Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency

Marblehead School Committee

Name of Board or Committee

HYBRID MEETING

Address: Marblehead High School Library 2 Humphrey Street Marblehead MA 01945

OR

Zoom Conference:

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/97886762817?pwd=5hT6kswajICtbJVAc2uYOnIpdv7fE.1>

Meeting ID: 978 8676 2817

Password: 610612

Dial in Phone +1 646 931 3860 US

Thursday	January	15	2026	6:00PM
Day of Week	Month	Date	Year	Time

Agenda or Topics to be discussed listed below (That the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed)

- I. Initial Business: Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Commendations
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Student Representative

- II. District Updates – Supt. John Robidoux
 - a. Superintendent Update
 - b. Financial Update
 - c. Essex Tech Enrollment Update

- III. Consent Action and Agenda Items (vote)
 - a. Schedule of Bills
 - b. Meeting Minutes: (12/18/2025)

- IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items
 - a. Approval of Articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant (vote)

- b. 2026-2027 User Fees and Tuition
- c. NRG Natural Gas Contract Update
- d. Report of Grievance Decision
- e. January 29, 2026 Meeting
- f. Sub Committee & Liaison Updates

(vote)

V. Closing Business

- a. Correspondence

VI. Adjournment

Hybrid Meeting Notice: Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person at 2 Humphrey Street Marblehead MA 01945 or by the remote zoom connection provided. Please note that the in-person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection.

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Chairperson:	<u>Al Williams</u>
Posted by:	<u>Kate Schmeckpeper</u>
Date:	<u>1/13/26</u>



Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
*Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching & Learning*

LisaMarie Ippolito
*Assistant Superintendent of
Student Services*

Michael Pfifferling
*Assistant Superintendent of
Finance & Operations*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee
FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
DATE: January 8, 2026
RE: District Financial Report FY26

- Our unexpended / unencumbered balance is \$3,123,627 at the end of December. This is \$148,560 less than what was reported as of the November 30th report.
- There is a line of -\$227,764 in the report (was there last month also) which needs to be distributed among various salary lines. This line was placed in the FY26 budget to identify savings due to retirements / attrition. I will make budget adjustments as soon as we are fully on the Munis system in January.
- The Special Education Out of District Tuition and Transportation lines will need to be adjusted in January. Currently, we have over-encumbered the Circuit Breaker lines by \$272,438. This will be rectified by updating purchase orders that are currently encumbered under Circuit Breaker and move them to LEA Out of District Tuition and Transportation Lines. Once these adjustments have been made, the available balance will be \$2,851,189.
- Our first Munis payroll will be process on January 15, 2026. The Payroll staff, School based Administrative Assistants and Principals have been working diligently to ensure payroll is processed with extreme precision.

Attached is the line-by-line report for FY26 expenditures vs budget through December 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

ESSEX NORTH SHORE
AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Admissions Allocation Procedure
(Lottery-Based Grade 9 Enrollment by Community Minimum Targets)
School Year 2025-2026

1. Purpose

This procedure establishes a fair and transparent lottery-based system to allocate admissions across member communities. Community minimum targets are determined based on the average three-year historical Grade 9 enrollment, with a baseline of five seats reserved for smaller member communities.

2. Member Community Minimum Targets

The following enrollment minimum targets are established for incoming Grade 9 students:

Community	Min. Target	Community	Min. Target
Beverly	60	Middleton	13
Boxford	12	Nahant	5*
Danvers	60	Peabody	123
Essex	5*	Rockport	5*
Gloucester	23	Salem	48
Hamilton	7	Swampscott	8
Lynnfield	14	Topsfield	7
Manchester-By-The-Sea	5*	Wenham	5*
Marblehead	10	Open Lottery Seats	15**
		Total Target (Member Communities) (Current Enrollment 421)	425

*Indicates a Community with a three-year average enrollment of fewer than five students.

** Indicates seats to bring up to 2026 October 1 SIMS enrollment, and to accommodate expected growth.

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3. Lottery Assignment

- **At-Large Lottery Number:**
 - Each applicant is assigned an at-large lottery number through an electronic randomized process.
 - This number establishes the applicant's overall position in the lottery system.
- **Community Lottery Waitlist:**
 - A waitlist will be created for each community based on the overall at-large lottery number.

4. Admission Rounds

Round 1: Initial Acceptances

- Seats are offered to each community's Grade 9 minimum target enrollment based on the order of the Community Lottery Waitlist.
 - *Example: The first 23 Gloucester applicants on Gloucester's Community Lottery Waitlist will be offered acceptance.*
- If a community's applicant pool is smaller than its minimum target, all applicants from that community will be accepted.
 - Remaining unfilled seats will be carried forward into later rounds.
- Applicants must accept their seat within ten school days of receiving their acceptance notification (see Admissions Policy).

Round 2: Community Waitlist (10 School Days After Round 1)

- Declined seats from each community are refilled to their minimum target enrollment using the community's lottery waitlist.
 - *Example: If Beverly's minimum target is 60, but 10 applicants decline, the next 10 applicants from Beverly's Community Lottery Waitlist will be accepted.*

Round 3 and Subsequent Rounds: Community Waitlists + At-Large Lottery Waitlist

- Communities with unfilled seats will continue to refill to their minimum target enrollment using the community's lottery waitlist.
- If a community's lottery waitlist is exhausted but has not met its minimum target allocation, the unfilled seats are offered to applicants on the at-large lottery waitlist (excluding non-resident applicants).
 - *Example: If Nahant has no remaining applicants but still has three unfilled minimum target seats, those seats are reassigned to the next applicant in the overall at-large lottery waitlist, regardless of the applicant's community (excluding non-resident applicants).*

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5. Waitlist

- A waitlist is maintained for each community, ordered by lottery number.
- The at-large waitlist is also maintained for reallocation of unused community seats.
- Waitlists remain active until September 30th to ensure maximum seat utilization.

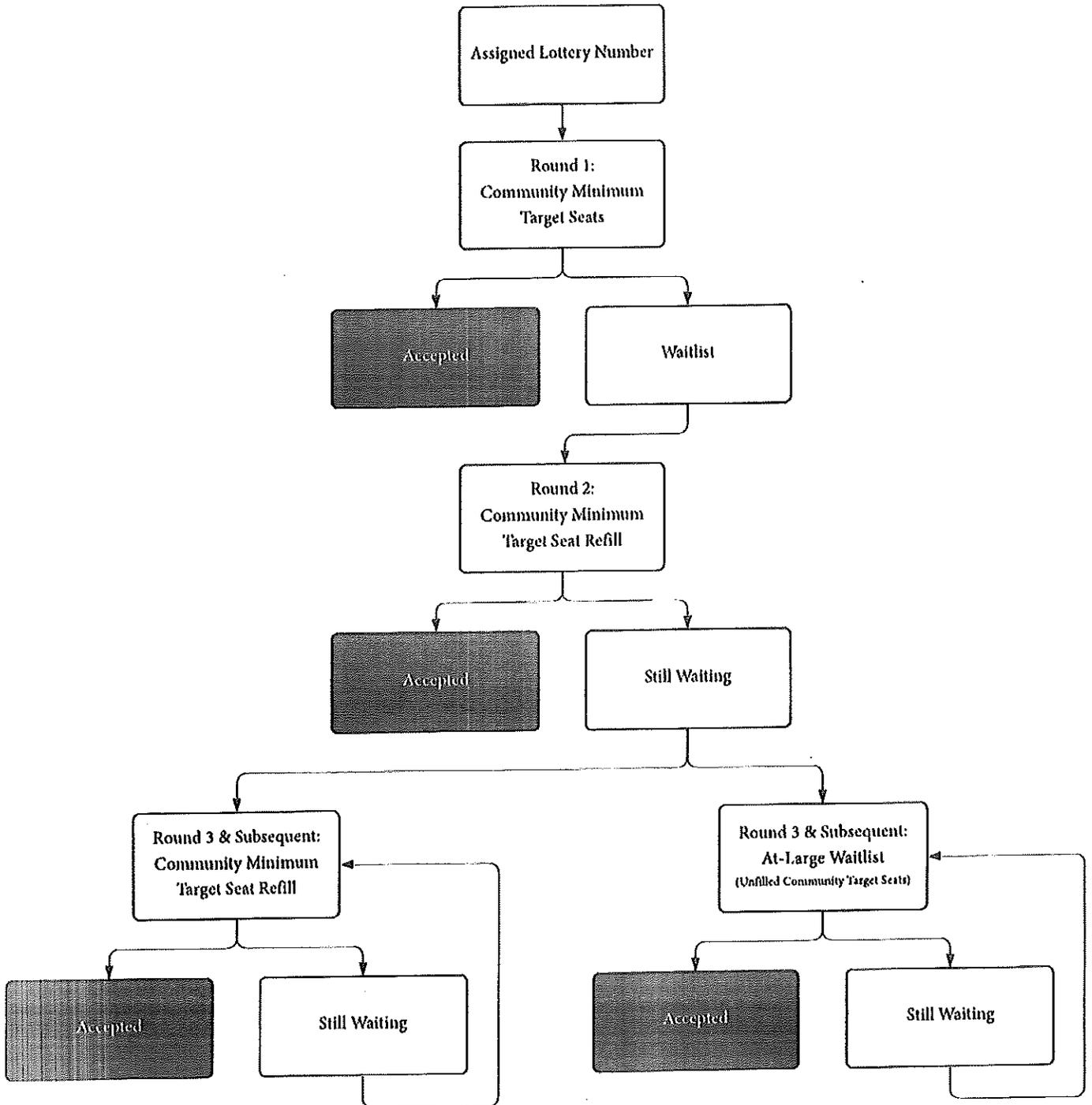
6. Non-Resident Community Lottery

- Approximately 125 +/- seats are allocated for Grade 9 non-resident students to enroll in the specialized agricultural and natural resource exploratory program.
- Seats are filled based on an at-large community lottery number.
- These seats do not interact with the member community minimum target system.

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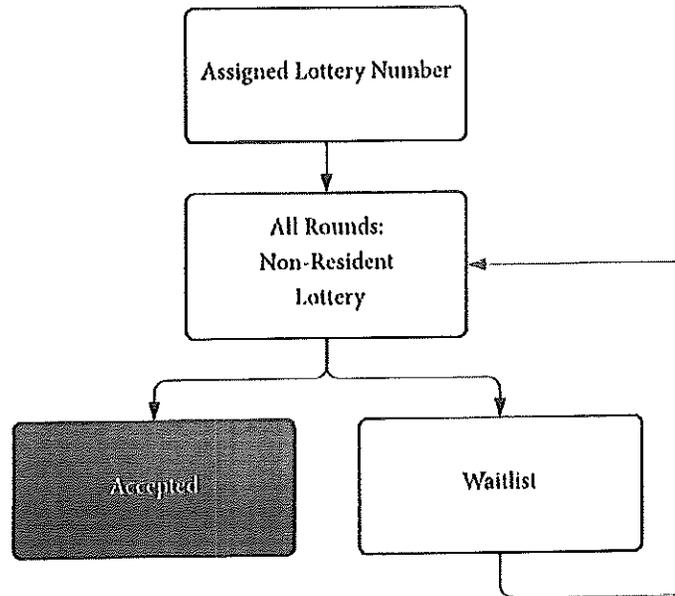
Appendix

1. Member Community Applicant Paths to Acceptance Chart



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**2. Non-Resident Community Applicant Paths to Acceptance
Chart**

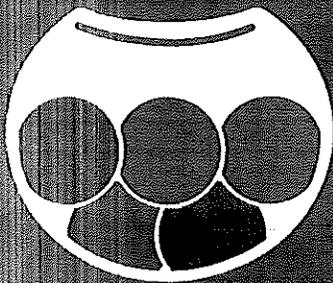




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Member Community Lottery-Based Admissions

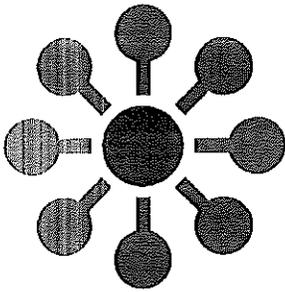
How It Works & Why It Matters



Why a Lottery?

State-Mandated Process
(This Was Not Optional)

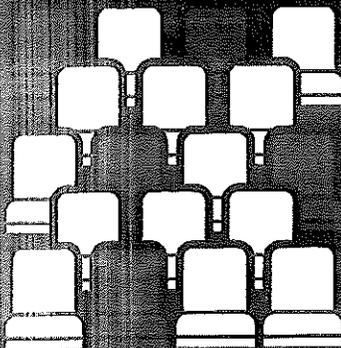
- ➔ As of Spring 2025, Massachusetts requires regional vocational schools to use a lottery-based admissions system with a waitlist to ensure fair and equitable access for students across all member communities.



The Goal

Equity Across All 17 Member Communities

- ➔ Fair Access-Not First-Come, First-Served
- ➔ Every member community is guaranteed an equitable opportunity for Grade 9 enrollment



How Seats Are Allocated

Data-Driven, Not Arbitrary

- ➔ Community minimum seat targets are based on actual enrollment data, not application timing or community size.
- ➔ Each community's Grade 9 minimum target is calculated using the three-year average of Grade 9 enrollment from Essex Tech SIMS data.
- ➔ Communities with small historical enrollment are guaranteed a minimum of five seats.
- ➔ This approach balances historical participation, current demand, and equitable future access.

All applicants for Fall 2026 admission will be included in the lottery-based admissions process.

ENSATS 17 Member Community Lottery Process

Transparent.
Structured.
Consistent.

- 1** Submit a Complete Application
- 2** Receive a randomized at-large lottery number
- 3** Seats are filled in multiple rounds to ensure that all communities reach their minimum targets
- 4** Any unused seats are redistributed using the at-large lottery order

Why this works:

-  Eliminates ambiguity
-  Reinforces "same number, every step"
-  Quietly counters favoritism claims



Member Community Minimum Targets (Grade 9)

Community	Min. Target
Beverly	60
Boxford	12
Danvers	60
Essex	5
Gloucester	23
Hamilton	7
Lynnfield	14
Manchester-By-The-Sea	5
Marblehead	10
Middleton	13
Nahant	5
Peabody	123
Rockport	5
Salem	48
Swampscott	8
Topsfield	7
Wenham	5
Open Member Community Lottery Seats	15
Total	425

A fair, transparent, and state-mandated admissions process.



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Member Community Lottery-Based Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Why did Essex Tech change its admissions process?

Essex Tech is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to use a lottery-based admissions system. In Spring 2025, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) directed all vocational and agricultural schools to move away from selective admissions models and adopt a random lottery when applications exceed available seats. This change is designed to increase fairness, equity, and consistency statewide, ensuring all students have an equal opportunity for admission.

When does this new admissions process take effect?

The lottery-based admissions process applies to all applicants for Fall 2026 admission.

What does "allocation process" mean?

Because Essex Tech is a regional school serving 17 member communities, the allocation process ensures that every sending community has access to Essex Tech, rather than seats being filled solely on a first-come or selective basis.

How does the lottery actually work?

All students who submit a complete application by the deadline are entered into a random, electronic lottery. Seats are first filled using community-based minimum targets. Remaining seats are filled through an at-large lottery process. Waitlists are maintained to ensure all available seats are filled fairly and efficiently. The lottery does not consider grades, test scores, attendance, or discipline.

Why can't Essex Tech admit everyone who applies?

Essex Tech has limited capacity. Each year, we receive around 1,500 applications for a limited number of freshman seats, resulting in a significant waitlist.

Does this process advantage or disadvantage certain communities?

No. The process is designed specifically to prevent advantages or disadvantages based on location, school district size, and number of applications. The allocation model ensures predictable, equitable access for all member communities.

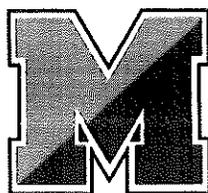
When and how will families receive lottery results?

Families and sending-school counselors will be notified of lottery results by March 1, 2026. Students who are conditionally accepted must still meet promotion and residency verification requirements as outlined in Essex Tech's Admissions Policy.

Where can I learn more?

Additional information about admissions can be found at <https://essexnorthshore.org/admissions/>





DRAFT MINUTES

Marblehead School Committee

Chair: Al Williams

Meeting Date, Time & Location: Thursday, December 18th, 2025, 6pm, MHS Library, 2 Humphrey Street Marblehead MA 01945

SC Members Present: M. Clucas, J. Schaeffner, A. Williams, H. Gwazda

SC Members Absent: K. Schmeckpeper

Agenda and Materials: [Link](#)

Meeting Recording: [Link](#)

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Henry Gwazda

Public Comment and Student Representative Report (00:00:00–00:07:00)

a. Public comment from Sarah Fox

- Raised concerns about alleged Mass General Law and ethics violations during a previous executive session regarding release of privileged information
- Expressed concern that ethics breaches could undermine public trust needed for school funding

b. Public comment from Sarah Pouladian (Ida Road)

- Raised concerns about a Jewish teacher whose position was allegedly split one month after she spoke publicly about antisemitic incidents
- Called on the committee to demonstrate through actions that antisemitism will not be tolerated

c. Student Representative Report (read by Chair)

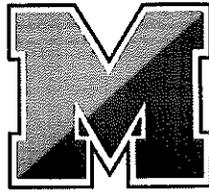
- Winter Concert held successfully; yearbook sales ongoing; senior Spirit Days well-attended
- Winter sports records provided for basketball, swimming, hockey, wrestling, track; skiing and gymnastics seasons beginning

Superintendent Update and Staff Recognition (00:07:00–00:14:00)

a. Superintendent John Robidoux remarks

- Acknowledged recent tragedies in Australia and at Brown University; emphasized promoting acceptance and belonging

b. Health, safety, and district updates



- Cold/flu season active; lead nurse Megan Kalpin sent health notices; custodial crews performing extra cleaning
- Winter concerts successful; Village School mural created by artist Brendan Bataflan with students, coordinated by teachers Julie McCarthy and Gina Semple

c. Staff shout outs read into record

- Matthew LeVangie recognized Kyle Bodwin, Colleen English, Julie Frius (Veterans Middle School concert)
- Scott Williams recognized Joe Stoddard, Julie Frius, Nick Sears, Katie Freegod (Village School performances)
- Mary Maxfield recognized counselors Allison Eaton, Kara Elmer (family support)
- Michele Carlson recognized Kasia Johnson, Gina Hart (Making Ends Meet holiday assistance)
- Frank Kowalski recognized Alyssa Kendall, Eric Fargo (Glover Elementary)
- Julia Ferreira thanked all Marblehead music educators

Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes Discussion (00:14:00–00:18:00)

a. Consent agenda amendment

- December 4th minutes removed from consent agenda due to several identified issues requiring correction

b. Motion on amended consent agenda

- A motion was made by Jennifer Schaeffner and seconded by Melissa Clucas to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$814,799.87
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas

c. December 4th meeting minutes corrections identified

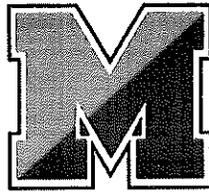
- Budget documents must be released to public simultaneously with committee presentation
- Point of order raised regarding unvoted executive session minutes
- Competency determination policy discussion incorrectly showed one motion; should reflect original motion followed by amended motion

d. December 4th meeting minutes tabled pending corrections

Advanced Placement Program Presentation (00:18:00–00:35:00)

a. Program overview

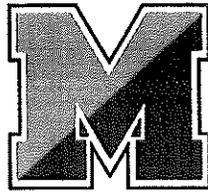
- Marblehead High School offers 21 College Board-approved AP courses across multiple content areas



- AP Capstone diploma requires scores of 3+ on Seminar, Research, and four additional AP exams
- b. Student participation and performance data
- 59% of students in grades 10-12 (353 students) took AP exams in 2023-24, completing 829 total exams
 - Pass rates and participation have increased; Marblehead compares favorably to DESE comparison districts
 - 194 AP awards earned; school received AP Scholar Honor Roll gold award for equitable access
- c. Committee discussion
- Member suggested surveying graduates about AP credit transfer to colleges
 - Members commended large AP class sizes and guidance counselor support

Policy Approvals and Updates (00:35:00–00:42:00)

- a. Policy ECAB – Access to Buildings and Grounds (third reading)
- Motion by Jennifer Schaeffner, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)
- b. Policy EFDA – School Food and Nutrition Meal Modifications (third reading)
- Motion by Jennifer Schaeffner, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)
- c. Policy EFE – Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs (third reading)
- Motion by [Name], seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)
- d. Policy EHAA – District Security Relating to Technology (third reading)
- Motion by Jennifer Schaeffner, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)
- e. Policy EHV – Data and Records Retention (third reading)
- Motion by Jennifer Schaeffner, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)
- f. Policy IKFE – Competency Determination (approval vote)
- Motion by Henry Gwazda, seconded by Melissa Clucas, to approve; passed 3–1 (in favor: Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas; against: Jennifer Schaeffner)
 - Opposition noted by Jennifer Schaeffner regarding definition of passing grade for competency determination
- g. Policies EFC (Free and Reduced Priced Food Services) and EFD (Meal Charge Policy) – updates reflecting universal free meals



- Motions by Jennifer Schaeffner, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve; both passed 4–0 (Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas)

Essex Agricultural School Appointment and Headlight Newspaper Discussion (00:42:00–01:01:00)

a. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District appointment

- Mark Stroud currently serves as Marblehead's representative and board chairperson; Superintendent John Robidoux and Town Moderator Jack Patrick recommended reappointment
- A motion was made by Jennifer Schaeffner and seconded by Henry Gwazda to reappoint Mark B. Stroud to a new three-year term commencing January 1, 2026
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas

b. Essex Tech and technical education discussion

- Committee requested Mr. Stroud provide update on school's lottery-based admissions process and enrollment capacity concerns
- Superintendent Robidoux noted early discussions regarding offering technical pathways (CNA, childcare certification) for students unable to attend Essex Tech

c. Headlight student newspaper discussion

- Marblehead Current has exclusive arrangement to publish the Headlight; other media sources have requested access
- Committee agreed this is a building-level decision for teacher advisor and students; administration will explore options and report back

Student Services Department Update (01:01:00–01:33:00)

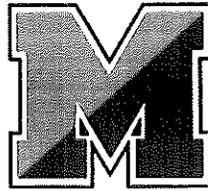
a. Staffing updates

- New team chair (Stuart) hired for Glover School; Catherine P. hired as 0.6 administrative assistant at Brown School (increased from 0.5 due to need)
- 61 staff restraint trained (up from 53); BCBA's provided district-wide de-escalation training in November

b. Student population and placements

- IEP students decreased from 505 to 416; 504 plans increased from 226 to 279
- Out-of-district placements: 48 (2023-24), 53 (2024-25), 50 currently; foster care students decreased from 7 to 4; McKinney-Vento remained at 7

c. Programs and accountability



- Programs include inclusion services, language-based (grades 2-12), therapeutic (K-12), and ABA (pre-K through age 22)
- Achievement points for students with disabilities increased from 0/12 to 7/12 (non-high school) and 1/12 to 7/12 (high school)
- Chronic absenteeism received 0 points at both levels; being addressed through Cartwheel program, CSA partnership, and family outreach

d. Circuit breaker audit

- DESE audit confirmed district is owed funds; disbursement pending completion of all district audits

Budget Items and Copier Contract Discussion (01:33:00–01:47:00)

a. Copier contract overview

- Current contract expires January 2026; district has 29 machines total; current annual cost approximately \$129,000

b. Vendor evaluation and recommendation

- Three vendors submitted proposals: Ricoh, Konica Minolta, and Canon
- Konica Minolta recommended: comparable cost to Ricoh, faster machines, true cost-per-copy billing
- Estimated savings of \$22,000/year (\$88,000 over 48-month term); includes Papercut print management software

c. Lease terms

- 48-month lease selected; 60 months deemed too long for school environment; requires select board approval under Mass General Law
- District locked into machines for lease term but can adjust at renewal using Papercut volume data

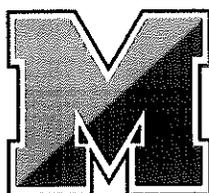
d. Motion and vote

- A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Melissa Clucas to approve the vendor selection and contract
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas

Enrollment Update and Trends Analysis (01:47:00-02:05:00)

a. Enrollment data and trends

- Julia Ferreira and Superintendent John Robidoux presented enrollment analysis showing negative 3.8% change from 2019 to present



- Declining enrollment is statewide due to low birth rates; no grade level currently exceeds 200 students
- Graduation-to-entry gap exists annually with larger classes graduating than entering

b. Student transfers and alternative schools

- Last year: 56 students moved out of state, 6 enrolled in homeschool
- Resident students attending alternative schools: Epstein Hillel Academy (32), Marblehead Charter Schools (82), Pingree (41), St. John's Prep (78), Essex Tech (35)
- Approximately 81-83% of resident students attend public schools, consistent with similar districts
- Committee member requested distinguishing between students who moved versus those remaining as residents but attending private school

c. Regional factors and next steps

- Pioneer Institute identified Marblehead as having second-lowest birth rate in state; limited new housing and aging population contribute to decline
- District reduced approximately 1,000 students over ten years; staffing adjustments complicated by high-needs student distribution
- Administration examining transition years for retention strategies and conducting class-by-class enrollment reviews for budgeting

Bargaining Subcommittee Appointments and Liaison Updates (02:05:00–02:23:00)

a. Bargaining subcommittee formation

- A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Jennifer Schaeffner to appoint Kate Schmeckpeper and Melissa Clucas to the bargaining subcommittee for negotiations with BCBA's, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and related staff
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas, Al Williams

b. Bargaining team appointment

- A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Melissa Clucas to approve the bargaining team composition (two subcommittee members, Town Administrator, and Superintendent John Robidoux in advisory capacity)
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas, Al Williams

c. Goals subcommittee appointment



- A motion was made by Al Williams and seconded by Henry Gwazda to appoint Kate Schmeckpeper and Al Williams to the goals subcommittee
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas, Al Williams

d. Liaison updates and correspondence

- Jennifer Schaeffner reported on substance abuse prevention meeting with select board member, Chief of Police, and District Attorney Paul Tucker; DA's office offered juvenile/restorative justice resources
- Chair clarified correspondence inclusion in packets is at Chair's discretion due to volume

e. Executive session and grievance waiver

- Chair read purposes for executive session: potential litigation, step three grievance regarding lead teacher stipend, and collective bargaining strategy
- Union representative stated teacher waived right to executive session and requested public hearing

Procedural Guidelines and Correspondence Discussion (02:23:00–02:35:00)

a. Grievance hearing format

- Union representative stated teacher waived right to executive session, requested public hearing
- Committee discussed consulting legal counsel before proceeding

b. Executive session motion

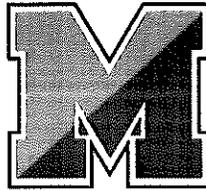
- A motion was made by Al Williams and seconded by Henry Gwazda to enter executive session to discuss the procedure around whether the grievance would be heard in executive session or public meeting
- The motion passed 3–1, with votes in favor: Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Al Williams, against: Jennifer Schaeffner

c. Motion to hear grievance in open session

- Upon return from executive session, a motion was made by Jennifer Schaeffner and seconded by Henry Gwazda pursuant to Chapter 38, Section 21A2 purpose 1 to conduct a collective bargaining session with the Marblehead Education Association specifically to hear a step 3 grievance regarding the lead teacher stipend in open session
- The motion passed 4–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas

Step Three Grievance Hearing Regarding Lead Teacher Stipend (02:35:00–03:46:00)

a. Grievance presentation by Brigitte Karns, English teacher at Marblehead Veterans Middle School



- Served as sole lead English teacher since 2008 (16 years); position split June 2024, approximately one month after she spoke publicly about antisemitism in Marblehead Public Schools
 - Alleges discrimination based on being Jewish and a Zionist, and retaliation for speaking out; split affects current salary and retirement calculations (\$3,500–\$4,000 annual stipend)
- b. Historical context and legal representation
- Ms. Karns stated English position was only one split in 2024; CBA and job posting indicate five lead teacher positions at Veterans Middle School, one per subject
 - Attorney Yael Magen argued timing suggests retaliation; stated MCAD complaint would be withdrawn if grievance resolved favorably
- c. Superintendent John Robidoux's response
- Noted grievance filed with new principal a year after split; found nothing compelling to indicate antisemitism motivated decision; stated splitting stipends is past practice district-wide
- d. Committee discussion
- Ms. Karns confirmed no union representation during grievance process; stated she does not feel safe at work and has experienced social isolation since speaking out
- e. Motion to enter executive session
- A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Melissa Clucas to enter executive session for multiple purposes including deliberation on the step three grievance, collective bargaining strategy, potential litigation, and compliance with open meeting law requirements
 - The motion passed 3–1, with votes in favor: Al Williams, Henry Gwazda, Melissa Clucas; vote against: Jennifer Schaeffner
 - The committee entered executive session without intent to return to open session at 9:48pm



Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
*Asst. Superintendent of
Teaching & Learning*

LisaMarie Ippolito
*Asst. Superintendent of
Student Services*

Michael Pfifferling
*Asst. Superintendent of
Finance & Operations*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee
FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
DATE: January 7, 2026
RE: Warrant Articles

The deadline to submit warrant articles to be placed on the annual town meeting warrant is January 30, 2026.

Each year we submit a request to reauthorize revolving funds established under MGL C44, S533 ½. The funds are as follows:

1. Reauthorization: Special Education Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S53 E ½)
In the amount of \$200,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027, for the use of School Committee authorized expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund are from tuition collected for the attendance of out of district students placed in Marblehead Public School Special Education Programming. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to the Marblehead Public Schools special education programs serving Marblehead students.
2. Reauthorization: Transportation Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$15,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized transportation expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for the transportation of students enrolled in the voluntary Pay to Ride bus program. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to school transportation.
3. Reauthorization: Athletic User Fees Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$550,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Athletic expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for student athletics programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead High School Athletic programs.

4. Reauthorization: Marblehead High School Activity Fees Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$200,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead High School Student Activity expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for Marblehead High School Student Activity programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead High School Student Activity programs.

5. Reauthorization: Marblehead Veterans Middle School Activity Fees Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$50,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Veterans Middle School Student Activity expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for Marblehead Veterans Middle School Student Activity programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Veterans Middle School Student Activity programs.

6. Reauthorization: Marblehead Village Elementary School Activity Fees Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$50,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Village Elementary School Student Activity expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for Marblehead Village Elementary School Student Activity programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Village Elementary School Student Activity programs.

7. Reauthorization: Marblehead General Education Tuition Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$200,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead General Education Tuition expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from tuition paid by non-immigrant foreign students attending Marblehead High School collected for Marblehead High School programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead High School programs.

8. Reauthorization: Marblehead Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$1,100,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from parent fees collected for Marblehead Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs.

9. Reauthorization: Marblehead Athletics Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)
In the amount of \$30,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Athletic expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from gate receipts and vending collected for Marblehead Athletic programs. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Athletic programs.

10. Reauthorization: Marblehead Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)

In the amount of \$2,100,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Special Education expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from Commonwealth of Massachusetts reimbursement from previous years' Special Education claim(s) received for Marblehead Special Education expenses. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Special Education programs.

11. Reauthorization: Marblehead Facility Rental Revolving Fund (under MGL C 44, S 53E ½)

In the amount of \$125,000 in anticipated expenditures in fiscal year 2027 for the use of School Committee authorized Marblehead Facilities expenses within the scope and conditions pertaining to this fund. Revenue sources into this fund will be from organizations who pay a fee to rent School Facilities. Said funds are to be expended on costs directly related to Marblehead Public Schools Facilities and Rental Event Expenses.

In addition, the School Committee can request placeholders for articles. Three potential placeholder articles for discussion are as follows:

12. School Buildings Capital Needs

(PLACEHOLDER ARTICLE – Draft Wording)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of making renovations and extraordinary repairs, including all professional feasibility studies, design, architectural and engineering fees, or significant capital expenditures for the Brown, Glover, Village, Veterans Middle, Marblehead High School and the school building known as the Eveleth School and their respective school grounds, and to raise the money for these purposes by the issue of bonds or notes, by the transfer of an unused/prior appropriation and borrowing authority for such purposes, by the passage of a one-time capital exclusion and/or debt exclusion or in any other manner, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the School Committee

13. School Buildings Technology Needs

(PLACEHOLDER ARTICLE – Draft Wording)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of making renovations, upgrades and extraordinary repairs, including all professional feasibility studies, design, architectural and engineering fees, or significant Technology expenditures for the Brown, Glover, Village, Veterans Middle, Marblehead High School, and to raise the money for these purposes by the issue of bonds or notes, by the transfer of an unused/prior appropriation and borrowing authority for such purposes, by the passage of a one-time capital exclusion and/or debt exclusion or in any other manner, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the School Committee

14. School Department Capital Needs

(PLACEHOLDER ARTICLE - Draft Wording)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for school department capital needs, and to raise the money for these purposes by the issue of bonds or notes, by the transfer of an unused/prior appropriation and borrowing authority for such purposes, by the passage of a one-time capital exclusion and/or debt exclusion or in any other manner, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the School Committee

15. School Department Supplemental Appropriation

(PLACEHOLDER ARTICLE - Draft Wording)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the School Department's operating budget for fiscal year 2027, contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, ballot question, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the School Committee.

The Revolving Account articles will be submitted to the Town for placement on the warrant. If the School Committee would like to submit any of the placeholder articles, (number 12, 13, 14 and 15 above) for inclusion on the town meeting warrant, please let me know and I will submit any or all of them on behalf of the School Committee.

Respectfully submitted



MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marblehead User Fees			
Athletics	per student / season		
	2026-2026		2026-2027
	Approved		Proposed
High School			
1st Season	\$ 540		\$ 555
2nd Season	\$ 490		\$ 505
3rd Season	\$ 440		\$ 455
Middle School			
1st Season	\$ 260		\$ 270
2nd Season	\$ 210		\$ 215
3rd Season	\$ 160		\$ 165
Non-Athletics			
High School Clubs or Flag Football (Unlimited)	\$ 290		\$ 300
Middle School Intramural Sports/Activities (Unlimited)	\$ 290		\$ 300
Elementary Intramural Sports/Activities (Unlimited)	\$ 290		\$ 300
Annual Family Maximum for User Fees	\$ 2,060		\$ 2,125
Online Registration and payment is required for all programs and activities prior to the start date.			
Marblehead Tuition-Based Programs			
Pre-Kindergarten Half Day	\$5,000	per year	\$ 5,150
Pre-Kindergarten Full Day	\$7,000	per year	\$ 7,210
Kindergarten Half Day	FREE	of charge	
Kindergarten Full Day	\$4,000	per year	\$ 4,120
Please visit the registration section of the website for more information, payment, & registration requirements.			
Waiver Information			
Kindergarten Tuition ONLY			
Families that apply for and meet the USDA's Income Eligibility or are directly certified through the Virtual Gateway, will automatically qualify for either FREE with <u>100%</u> reduction in Kindergarten Tuition ONLY , OR REDUCED with <u>75%</u> reduction in Kindergarten Tuition ONLY .			
PreK Tuition and User Fees			
Families that apply for and meet the USDA's Income Eligibility or are directly certified through the Virtual Gateway, will automatically qualify either a PreK Tuition &/or User Fees waiver. FREE eligibility = <u>75%</u> reduction and REDUCED = <u>50%</u> reduction.			
Transportation: Pay-to-Ride			
Grades K to 6 (who live less than 2 miles)	\$250	per year	\$260
Invoices will be sent to those who have been registered & scheduled.			
Payment in full is required prior to the first date of service. There are no waivers for this service.			



Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
*Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching & Learning*

LisaMarie Ippolito
*Assistant Superintendent of
Student Services*

Michael Pfifferling
*Assistant Superintendent of
Finance & Operations*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee
FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
DATE: January 8, 2026
RE: Natural Gas Contract Renewal

Since 2014, the Marblehead Public School Department has been purchasing our natural gas supply and natural gas delivery separately. We have been utilizing National Grid for the delivery and NRG for the supply.

The current 3-year contract for the supply portion is set to expire in March, 2026. We were fortunate to be able to lock in new pricing on January 8, 2026 for the period of April 1, 2026 through March 30, 2029 at a lower price than we had in our previous contract.

We are currently using approximately 34,000 dekatherms of Natural Gas per year and our current contract is priced at \$8.54 per dekatherm. This is for the supply only, not the delivery.

The new contract we have executed as of today for the period 4/1/26 – 3/31/29 is at \$7.10 per dekatherm. This equates to an approximate savings of \$49,000 annually over the current expense for the next 3 years.

As the delivery costs are regulated and set by the Government, we cannot lock in prices for that aspect of our heating fuel costs.

Attached you will find a copy of the executed contract referenced above.

Respectfully submitted,