



## **Marblehead School Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Chair:** A. Williams

**Meeting Date, Time & Location:** July 31, 2025 Widger Road & hybrid via Zoom

**SC Members Present:** H.Gwazda, J. Schaeffner, K. Schmeckpeper, A. Williams, (5th seat vacant)

**Agenda & Materials:** [Link](#)

**Meeting Recording:** [Link](#)

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Henry Gwazda

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### **Call to Order**

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted two agenda adjustments: no executive session following the public meeting; and a statement from Mr. Ota.

### **Seat Vacated**

Mr. Ota announced that, effective immediately, he is vacating his School Committee seat due to relocation out of Marblehead. Members thanked Mr. Ota for his service.

### **Secretary Appointment**

The committee discussed potential conflicts and recusals related to the secretary role. Mr. Gwazda reported he confirmed with the state ethics office that he may serve as secretary but must recuse when matters directly implicate his wife's employment (e.g., pay for part-time substitutes). The secretary will assume responsibility for taking minutes (open session and executive session), with temporary coverage if recusal is required.

- **Motion:** Mr. Williams asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Gwazda as secretary. Ms. Schmeckpeper moved, Mr. Gwazda seconded.
- **Vote / Result:** Mr. Williams, Mr. Gwazda and Ms. Schmeckpeper voted in favor, Ms. Schaeffner opposed. The motion passed (3-1).

### **Commendations**

- Ms. Schaeffner commended Mr. Ota for his service to the School Committee and the district.
- Mr. Williams commended Ms. Katie Abear (MVMS) as the Marblehead recipient of the Margaret Voss Howard Teacher Recognition Award.
- Ms. Schmeckpeper commended the Friends of Marblehead Public Schools (FMPS) on their 35th anniversary and for their longstanding support to the district.

### **Public Comment**

Public comment was limited to three minutes per speaker. Speakers included Jonathan Heller and Sally Shevory (MEA), Sarah Pouladian, Yael Megan.

### **Superintendent Updates**



Mr. Robidoux reported summer planning and operations: administrative retreat Aug 5–6; new staff orientation Aug 22; district PD Aug 25–26; students return Aug 27. Facilities work includes PAC/foyer painting at MVMS (complete; seats due the week of the 18th), Glover playground resurfacing and new equipment (with PTO support), Glover HVAC replacement/expansion, mini-splits at VETS and MHS, delivery of the district's first electric transport van, arrival/storage of the new scoreboard pending installation, and routine summer refresh (floors/painting). A contingency plan is in place if the waste management strike continues. ESY and summer literacy/math programs are concluding with positive reports. Next steps:

- Facilities will schedule scoreboard installation.
- Transportation will place the electric van into service and train drivers as needed.

### **Anti-Discrimination Committee Update**

Mr. Robidoux reviewed the committee's composition (community members, administrators, teachers, student feedback) and goals to proactively address discrimination (including anti-Semitism, racism, anti-LGBTQ+ bias). Student input will continue; monthly meetings will begin in the fall; surveys will be re-issued earlier for stronger participation. The committee also viewed a video introduction to Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern's trauma-informed work. Next steps:

- Administration will schedule monthly meetings starting in the fall, re-issue climate/discrimination surveys in the fall, hold regular HS student input sessions and update the School Committee.
- Mr. Robidoux will explore whether to invite Dr. Bar-Halpern for PD and how to embed learning into practice.

### **Schedule of Bills**

The committee reviewed the schedule of bills (\$1,279,691.09M, as posted).

- **Motion:** Mr. Williams asked for a motion to approve the schedule. Mr. Gwazda moved, Ms. Schmeckpeper seconded.
- **Vote / Result:** The motion passed (4-0).

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Multiple prior minutes were presented to the committee for approval.

- **Motion:** Ms. Schaeffner moved to approve minutes for 2/27, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15, and 6/5 as amended; Mr. Williams seconded.
- **Amended Motion:** After discussion, Mr. Williams to approve the list of draft minutes with edits that Mr. Williams has identified, and with the understanding that Mr. Gwazda will incorporate edits. Mr. Gwazda seconded.
- **Vote:** Mr. Williams, Mr. Gwazda and Ms. Schaeffner voted in favor. Ms. Schmeckpeper abstained. The motion passed (3-0-1).

### **Federal & State Funding Update**



Mr. Robidoux reported roughly \$70,000 in previously frozen federal funds have been released. He noted that certain state grants depend on Marblehead's compliance with 3A: METCO transportation funding (about \$500,000) is secured for this year; the Pathways & Innovation grant (about \$50,000) remains pending. The administration will monitor releases/conditions for all affected grants and notify the committee of any changes impacting programming.

### **MHS Roof Project Update**

Mr. Robidoux summarized the procurement timeline. A pre-qualification committee has been posted to the Central Register for two weeks; after posting ends (target Aug 28), the committee will review applicants before bids. A subsequent decision (liquid vs. resurfacing) will follow the bid phase; maintaining schedule is critical for next summer construction.

### **Policy Updates**

Mr. Robidoux shared that Policy ILD (Student Submission to Education Surveys and Research) will return to the Policy Subcommittee to ensure the current MASC model is used and handbooks align before a full committee vote. The Policy Subcommittee will review and recommend a policy for approval at an upcoming meeting, and Administration will align student handbook language accordingly.

### **Donations**

Friends of MPS donated \$2,500 in school supplies; principals will coordinate needs directly.

- **Motion:** Ms. Schmeckpeper moved to accept the donation; Mr. Gwazda seconded.
- **Vote / Result:** The motion passed (4-0).

### **School Committee Meeting Dates**

Ms. Schmeckpeper presented a proposed schedule for SC meeting dates for the 2025-26 school year. Members reviewed the proposed calendar and made adjustments as necessary. Administration will post and circulate the updated meeting schedule.

### **Subcommittees, Liaisons & Advisories**

The committee reviewed the subcommittee and liaison assignments and made the following decisions:

- **SC Budget Subcommittee** — left open pending appointment of new SC member.
- **Marblehead Master Plan Committee Liaison** — left open pending appointment of new SC member.
- **Supt Health / Wellness Advisory** – Mr. Robidoux looking into the requirements for this committee, will involve one SC member (left open pending appointment of new SC member).
- **Collective Bargaining Subcommittee** - not filling at this time.
- **Communications Subcommittee**
  - **Motion:** Ms. Schmeckpeper moved to appoint Mr. Gwazda to the communications subcommittee; Mr. Gwazda seconded.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed (4-0).



- **Supt Safety Advisory** – meets quarterly.
  - **Motion:** Mr. Gwazda moved to appoint Ms. Schmeckpeper to the Safety Advisory; Mr. Williams seconded.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed (4-0).
- **METCO Liaison**
  - **Motion:** Mr. Gwazda moved to appoint Mr. Williams as METCO liaison, Ms. Schmeckpeper seconded.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed (4-0).
- **SEPAC Liaison**
  - **Motion:** Mr. Schmeckpeper moved to appoint Mr. Gwazda as SEPAC liaison, Mr. Gwazda seconded.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed (4-0).
- **Subcommittee Ops** - Ms. Schmeckpeper shared that, per MASC, subcommittees are composed solely of school committee members (appointed annually) and advisories exist to include community members.
  - **Motion:** Ms. Schmeckpeper moved that each SC subcommittee (1) set a regular meeting schedule and share it with the Chair by September 1; (2) create and approve minutes; and (3) provide a monthly written communication update to the full School Committee. Mr. Gwazda seconded.
  - **Amended Motion:** Mr. Williams amended the motion such that that each SC subcommittee (1) set a regular meeting schedule and share it with the Chair by September 1; (2) create and approve minutes; and (3) provide a monthly communication update to the full School Committee. Ms. Schmeckpeper seconded.
  - **Vote / Result:** The motion passed (4-0).

### **Roof Project Advisory Committee**

Members discussed establishing a short-term advisory committee (to the School Committee) for the MHS roof project, to include community subject-matter expertise while maintaining procurement discipline.

- Mr. Williams and Administration will further consult MASC and legal and return with a recommended structure, scope, and membership for a vote.

### **Adjournment**

There was no new business or correspondence. Mr. Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schmeckpeper moved, Mr. Gwazda seconded. The motion passed (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.