



Marblehead School Committee

Chair: Al Williams

Meeting Date, Time & Location: Thursday, October 15th, 2025, 6pm, MHS Library, 2 Humphrey Street
Marblehead MA 01945

SC Members Present: M. Clucas, J. Schaeffner, K. Schmeckpeper, A. Williams

SC Members Absent: H. Gwazda

Agenda: [Link](#)

Materials: [Link](#)

Meeting Recording: [Link](#)

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Henry Gwazda

Call to Order

- A. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Public Comment

- No public comment

Student Representative.

1. Athletic teams maintained winning records as fall season neared completion:
 - a. Football 5-0, volleyball 11-2, golf 11-2, field hockey 7-5-2
 - b. Boys soccer 8-3, girls soccer 9-1-2
 - c. Girls cross country undefeated at 7-0, boys cross country 4-3
2. Recent activities and upcoming events:
 - a. Mass General Hospital and MHS Risk Youth Assessment Surveys completed successfully
 - b. Winter sports and Powderpuff registration opened; Powderpuff game vs. Swampscott scheduled November 22
 - c. October 22: sophomores/juniors take PSAT, freshmen participate in service day, seniors visit colleges
 - d. National Honor Society began online tutoring services for core classes and electives
 - e. Rock the Arts night November 6 at Arts Association Cooper Mansion to fund MHS arts programs
 - f. Performing arts department took field trip to Boston Symphony Hall and Boston Conservatory

Superintendent Update

1. Superintendent addressed hate in schools, emphasizing zero tolerance and calling for



collaborative efforts from students, staff, and parents to report and address discrimination immediately

2. Committee meetings scheduled:
 - Health and wellness committee meeting October 23rd for required three-year wellness policy review
 - Anti-discrimination committee meeting next day to discuss administrator presentation and recent hate messages
 - Principals to present MCAS results at next school committee meeting in new individual format
3. Town-wide survey partnership with Board of Health and UMass promoted for residents 18+ through mid-November to inform community support services

School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

1. Policy BEDH (Public Comment at School Committee Meetings)
Motion by K. Schmeckpeper, seconded by A. Williams to approve revisions removing obscenities as basis for terminating public comment per MASC recommendation. Motion passed 3-0, with votes in favor: K. Schmeckpeper, M. Clucas, A. Williams.
2. Policy BEH (Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members)
Motion by Kate Schmeckpeper, seconded by A. Williams to approve updates modernizing policy to reflect district email archiving system. Motion passed 3-0, with votes in favor: K. Schmeckpeper, M. Clucas, A. Williams.
3. Policy BID (School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses) and Policy BK Rescission:
Motion by Kate Schmeckpeper, seconded by A. Williams to approve BID revisions removing inapplicable compensation language and prohibiting committee member employment by district. Motion passed 3-0, with votes in favor: K. Schmeckpeper, M. Clucas, A. Williams.
4. Motion by Kate Schmeckpeper seconded by M. Clucas to rescind policy BK (School Committee Memberships) as unnecessary per MASC recommendation. Motion passed 4-0, with votes in favor: Kate Schmeckpeper, A. Williams, M. Clucas, J. Schaeffner.
5. Second reading of middle school pathway exploration policy outlining vocational school information sharing requirements and Essex Tech partnership completed.
6. Domestic Violence Proclamation
 - a. Proclamation not submitted to chair in time for meeting folder inclusion
 - b. Committee previously discussed domestic violence awareness in April but decided not to proceed with October proclamation at that time
 - c. Local citizen had requested October domestic violence proclamation
 - d. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2025 read aloud
 - i. Key statistics: 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men experience domestic violence in lifetime



- ii. Recognized organizations: HAWC, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, YMCA crisis centers
 - iii. Marblehead Public Schools affirmed commitment to supporting survivors
 - e. Typographical errors noted in presented version; corrected version to be prepared for signing
 - f. Motion made by J. Schaeffner to approve proclamation. Motion seconded by A. Williams and passed 4-0, with votes in favor: M. Clucas, K. Schmeckpeper, A. Williams, J. Schaeffner
- 7. Superintendent Progress Versus Goals and Evaluation Process
 - a. Evaluation Process and Timeline
 - i. Chair noted progress report uploaded day before meeting (goals had 48-hour notice)
 - ii. Committee agreed to proceed without full two-day notice requirement
 - iii. Committee members will complete individual assessment forms by next meeting
 - iv. Special meeting scheduled between October 30th-November 6th for composite evaluation
 - v. Final evaluation presented and voted at regular business meeting
 - b. Progress on Three Superintendent Goals
 - i. Professional Practice Goal (moderate progress): Acknowledged goal too broad; ongoing staffing discussions with assistant superintendents on special education, ELL, and general education; surface-level PTO/PCO discussions occurred; no surveys generated due to survey fatigue concerns
 - ii. District Improvement Goal: Strategic plan developed with six areas (curriculum/instruction, teacher quality, HR management, student support, leadership/governance, financial management); input from administration and principals; draft to committee by January for 2026-27 implementation
 - iii. Student Learning Goal (significant progress): All principals incorporated grade-appropriate student voice initiatives; administrative learning walks confirmed successful implementation across buildings
- 8. School Committee Goals Discussion
 - a. The committee had further discussions on the School Committee goals and whether they were appropriately aligned with the committee's purview.
 - b. It was also suggested that the committee's goals should align with the district and superintendent goals, and possibly developing the committee goals in conjunction with the district goals.
 - c. The committee agreed to work on the goals in a workshop setting.
- 9. Subcommittee Chair Appointments
 - a. Chair explained policy BD requires subcommittee chair appointments by committee chair subject to committee approval
 - i. Most subcommittees had not yet met to discuss chair appointments



- ii. Chair preferred subcommittee members recommend chairs rather than unilateral appointments
- iii. Committee member noted discussing appointments outside open meeting would violate open meeting law
- b. H. Gwazda had previously expressed interest in chairing communications subcommittee
- c. Motions and votes:
 - i. A motion was made by A. Williams and seconded by K. Schmeckpeper to appoint J. Schaeffner as chair of the budget subcommittee. The motion passed 4-0, with votes in favor: A. Williams, K. Schmeckpeper, J. Schaeffner, M. Clucas
 - ii. A motion was made by A. Williams and seconded by J. Schaeffner to appoint K. Schmeckpeper as chair of the policy subcommittee. The motion passed 4-0, with votes in favor: A. Williams, K. Schmeckpeper, J. Schaeffner, M. Clucas
 - iii. A motion was made by A. Williams and seconded by K. Schmeckpeper to appoint H. Gwazda as chair of the communications subcommittee. The motion passed 4-0, with votes in favor: A. Williams, K. Schmeckpeper, J. Schaeffner, M. Clucas
 - iv. Committee agreed to confirm Gwazda's willingness to serve and address at October 30th meeting if he declines

New Business

1. Planning Board Update and Field Lighting Discussion
 - a. Planning board approved field lighting at Piper Field for up to 80 nights per school year with PA system use 12 times annually; matter proceeds to Zoning Board of Appeals requiring legal counsel and school committee vote on application
 - b. J. Schaeffner mentioned that neighbors expressed concerns, including student parking blocking driveways, litter, inappropriate language from adult leagues, and general disruption
 - c. Superintendent met with neighbors to address concerns and discussed preventing outside containers at games
 - i. Police consulted on game management and parking enforcement
 - ii. Behavioral expectations needed for all groups using facility
 - d. K. Schmeckpeper designated to represent school committee at zoning board meetings; planning board requires usage data and community relations update in one year
2. Open Meeting Law Complaint
 - a. J. Schaeffner asked if the OML complaint was filed
 - b. A. Williams questioned whether the chair was the right person to submit the complaint.
 - c. J. Schaeffner offered to file the complaint.

Adjournment

- J. Schaeffner made a motion, with K. Schmeckpeper seconding, to enter executive session without intent to return to open meeting. The motion passed 4-0.