



DATE POSTED:   
 Town Clerk Use Only   
 202 FEB 24 12:31

**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

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

OR

Zoom:

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/97886762817?pwd=5hT6kswajICtbJVAc2uYOn1pdiv7fE.1>

Meeting ID: 978 8676 2817

Password: 610612

Dial in Phone +1 646 931 3860 US

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>
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. Student Representative
  - d. Close open meeting, open budget public hearing (vote)
- II. Public Budget Hearing
  - a. Budget Hearing
  - b. Motion to close public hearing (vote)
- III. District Updates – Supt. John Robidoux
  - a. Superintendent Update
- IV. Consent Action and Agenda Items (vote)
  - a. Schedule of Bills
  - b. Meeting Minutes: (2/05/2026)
- V. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. Sub Committee & Liaison Updates

VI. Closing Business

a. Correspondence

VII. Motion and vote to meet in executive session for the following reasons:

Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Marblehead Education Association (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Board-Certified Behavior Analysts and Occupational Therapist Assistants, Physical Therapists Assistants, Certified Nurse Assistants) because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares without intent to return to open session.

Executive session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), "Purpose 3", to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation (J. Buckey), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares without intent to return to open session.

Chair's Statement following roll call vote on the motion:

We will enter into Executive session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Marblehead Education Association (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Board-Certified Behavior Analysts and Occupational Therapist Assistants, Physical Therapists Assistants, Certified Nurse Assistants) because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares without intent to return to open session.

Also, pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), "Purpose 3", to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation (J. Buckey), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares without intent to return to open session.

VIII. Executive Session

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: Al Williams  
Posted by: Al Williams  
Date: 2/24/26



# 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*

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## MEMORANDUM

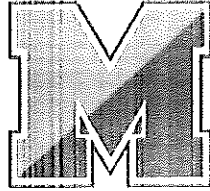
TO: Marblehead School Committee  
FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
DATE: February 25, 2026  
RE: Schedule of Bills for Approval

Included in this packet are the following Schedules of Bills for your consideration. The schedules and invoices have been uploaded to the shared drive.

Schedule	Amount
A26-31 - DW - MSR	\$498,569.18
A26-31 - FAC - LM	\$59,772.71
A26-31 - FS - CF	\$24,548.69
A26-31 - SS - KG	\$228,763.51
A26-32 - FS - CF	\$15,444.12
A26-32 - DW - MSR	\$123,138.62
A26-32 - FAC - LM	\$15,859.12
A26-32 - SS - KG	\$218,009.85
A26-33 - SS - KG	\$229,511.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,413,617.02</b>

Suggested Motion:

*Motion to approve the identified schedules of bills totaling \$1,413,617.02*



**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Marblehead School Committee**

Chair: Al Williams

**Meeting Date, Time & Location:** Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 6pm, Brown School Library, 40 Baldwin Rd. Marblehead MA 01945

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

**SC Members Absent:**

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

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

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Henry Gwazda

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**Public Comment and Opening Remarks (00:02:00–00:03:00)**

a. Public comment on transparency concerns

- Speaker expressed concern that meeting documents were not available online, noting documents had been posted prior to meetings for the past six years
- Speaker stated public engagement is essential during budget discussions and criticized perceived lack of transparency

**Superintendent Update (00:08:00–00:15:00)**

a. Superintendent John Robidoux recognized February as Black History Month.

- 2026 theme marks 100th anniversary of Black History Month's founding by Dr. Carter G. Woodson
- Junior Naima Giante recognized by METCO for digital Black History Month book

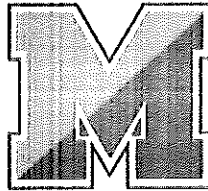
b. District recognition announced.

- Education Magazine invited Marblehead Public Schools to be featured in "The 10 Most Influential School Districts in 2026"
- Magazine cited strong academic rankings, 99% graduation rate, MCAS performance above state averages, and expanded AP opportunities

**Consent Agenda (00:15:00–00:17:00)**

a. Motion and Vote

- Motion by Kate Schmeckpeper, seconded by Henry Gwazda, to approve the consent agenda including: schedules of bills totaling \$321,620.66, 2026–2027 school committee meeting dates, and January 29, 2026 meeting minutes



- The motion passed 5–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Kate Schmeckpeper, Henry Gwazda, Al Williams, Melissa Clucas

b. Discussion

- Michael Pfifferling explained National Grid incorrectly credited town utility payments to school department accounts; credits belong to the town and National Grid must correct the error

**FY2027 Budget Presentation and Discussion (00:17:00–01:35:00)**

a. Superintendent John Robidoux presented proposed FY2027 level funded budget of \$49,122,285.

- Level funding requires reductions in services, staff, supplies, and programming; level service would require approximately \$2.56 million more

b. Michael Pfifferling reviewed budget allocation and funding offsets.

- Salaries comprise approximately 80% of budget; offsets include increased circuit breaker reimbursement and nearly doubled Pre-K/Kindergarten revolving account withdrawals
- District needed to identify \$1.7 million in additional revenue or cuts to achieve level funding

c. Administration outlined staffing reductions totaling 14.75 FTEs plus one stipend.

- Round one: summer technology position, HR assistant (vacant), teacher-in-charge stipend at Glover, 1.75 FTE EL teachers at Village, 0.5 FTE math intervention at Veterans, 0.2 FTE art teacher
- Round two: 1 elementary teacher, 1 Veterans teacher, 3 high school teachers, 0.4 FTE EL teacher at Glover, 1 general education elementary instructional assistant, 0.4 FTE speech-language pathologist, 1 ABA coordinator (vacant), 1 special education teacher at Village (vacant), 1 maintenance worker

d. Committee discussed enrollment trends and staffing alignment.

- Enrollment declined from 3,144 (2016-17) to 2,435 (February 2025); licensed teacher FTEs declined from 263.9 to proposed 212.35
- Melissa Clucas noted high-needs students increased from 27% to 32% of enrollment since 2016

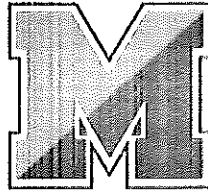
e. Committee raised concerns about budget assumptions and sustainability.

- Jennifer Schaeffner questioned confidence in out-of-district tuition and transportation projections
- Michael Pfifferling acknowledged revolving fund reliance is not sustainable; key risks include utilities, special education costs, and federal grant funding

f. Next steps discussed.

- Public hearing scheduled February 26, 2026; school committee vote planned for March
- Committee agreed to keep FY27 budget as standing agenda item; budget subcommittee to continue working with administration if further changes needed

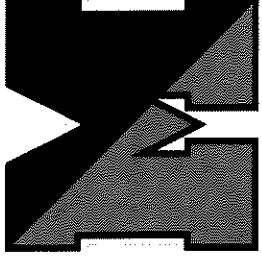
**Subcommittee and Liaison Updates (01:35:00–01:42:00)**



- a. Communications Subcommittee update on newsletter distribution
  - Newsletter will be sent Monday instead of Friday to avoid conflicting with school newsletters
  - Content will be budget-focused with roadmap update and links to budget documents and presentation with timestamp
  - Materials being prepared for PTO and social media distribution ahead of budget hearing
- b. Roof Committee update on high school roof project
  - All HVAC units with long delivery times ordered and assured on site by June; pre-inspection of rooftop equipment during February vacation
  - Weather permitting, one to two small roof sections may be completed during April vacation; decision expected one to two weeks in advance
  - Summer impacts: special education program relocated to Veterans Middle School; weight training access continues with flexible entry points; Piper Field available with possible limited exceptions during crane operations
  - First-floor office staff unaffected; some second-floor assistant principals may temporarily relocate; contractors require advance notice of all staff and students on site during summer work

**Closing Business and Adjournment (01:42:00–01:43:00)**

- a. No correspondence noted.
- b. Motion to adjourn made by Melissa Clucas, seconded by Henry Gwazda.
  - The motion passed 5–0, with votes in favor: Jennifer Schaeffner, Kate Schmeckpeper, Henry Gwazda, Al Williams, Melissa Clucas
- c. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.



# Marblehead Public Schools

Budget Hearing for FY27 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

February 26, 2026

**John J. Robidoux**, Superintendent of Schools

**Michael Pffiferling**, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

**Julia Ferreira**, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

**LisaMarie Ippolito**, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

# Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Educational Priorities

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## *To meet the academic and social-emotional needs of ALL students*

- Continue to cultivate a sense of belonging and allowance for student, staff, parent and community input into educational practices
- Utilize a Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to promote student success
- Align goals and strategies with the new District Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans
- Ensure that data based decision-making is aligned to meet student needs
- Challenge students with rigorous instruction within safe learning environments to enhance student success
- Enhance and reimagine Special Education programming and service delivery to meet student's individual needs
- Provide meaningful Professional Development and programming

# **M** FY27 Proposed Budget

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With input from our administrative team, the district has proposed a **level-funded** budget of **\$49,120,285** (the same amount as our current budget).

This requires a **decrease** in staffing and services and **no** funding increase over our current approved budget.



## Goals & Challenges

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### **Overarching Goal:**

- To ensure that our school budget allows the district to provide the appropriate level of support, resources, and programming for staff and students in order to achieve academic excellence across *all* grade levels and *all* abilities.

### **Challenges:**

- Implementing a level-funded budget when salary increases have already been negotiated
- Continuing to provide excellent educational programming utilizing the same funding as the current fiscal year while minimizing impact to the classroom environments

# **M** **FY 27-28 Budgetary Constraints**

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## **Based upon negotiated contracts:**

There is a **3% increase** to salaries in **FY 27** and a **3.5% increase** to salaries in **FY 28**

## **Special education tuition and transportation:**

Increase from the **FY 26** budgeted amount of \$6,122,273 to an **FY 27** anticipated amount of \$6,627,627 (**8.25%**)

## **With NO increase in funding:**

- Further staff reductions will be required
- High quality educational services for our students will be impacted

# Efficiencies and Reductions



## Efficiencies:

- Offset budget with METCO and IDEA grants
- Use Circuit Breaker, PK/K, Special Education, Educational, and Building Rental and Building Rental revolving accounts
- Level fund all supplies, PD, and technology
- Reduced cost for copier leases and utilities savings



## Initial Reductions

### (Round 1):

- Summer technology position,
- 1 FTE HR assistant position,
- Teacher-in-charge stipend (Glover),
- 1.75 FTE EL Teachers (Village),
- 1 FTE Math Interventionist (Vets),
- 2 FTE Art Teacher (MHS)



## Further Reductions

### (Round 2):

- 1 FTE Elem. Teacher,
- 1 FTE Veterans Teacher,
- 3 FTE MHS Teachers,
- 4 FTE EL Teacher Glover
- 1.0 Gen Ed Elem. IA
- .4 FTE Speech/Language
- 1 FTE ABA Coordinator
- 1 FTE Spec Ed Village Teacher (vacant)
- 1 FTE Maintenance Staff

*Total -9.75 Teacher FTEs*

# **M** Enrollment and Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

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October 1, 2016: 3144 enrolled students

February 2, 2026: 2435 enrolled students

*Reduction in enrollment of 709 students = 23% reduction*

2016-2017: 263.9 Teacher FTE

2026-2027: 215.4 Teacher FTE (with the proposed reductions)

*Reduction of 48.5 Teacher FTEs = 19% reduction*

Source: <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/teacherdata.aspx>



## The Executive Summary

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- The district is being asked to operate with the same funding as the current year. This places constraints on our ability to provide high quality, rigorous education to our students.
- As is the case across Massachusetts, there has been a decline in student enrollment, but a similar reduction in teacher FTEs has also taken place in Marblehead.
- Our ability to enhance teaching and learning, increase academic rigor, and provide appropriate support to students and staff is being compromised.
- With reduced funding, competing with other North Shore districts becomes increasingly difficult and the goal of providing high quality education to our students is much more challenging.

# Public Hearing on FY27 School Budget

- Statements and Supporting Info to be presented by Superintendent first
- To comment, please sign sheet (in-person). Remote folks please raise hand.
- To comment, citizens must be signed in and recognized by the Chair.
- All comments must be germane to the FY27 School Budget
- Questions and remarks will be limited to 3 minutes. One rebuttal or follow up question will be allowed and limited to 1 minute. This ensures everyone who wishes to speak will have an opportunity.
- Longer statements can be emailed to [SchoolCommittee@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:SchoolCommittee@marbleheadschoools.org)
- Chair will recognize persons who have not commented previously before recognizing persons who wish to remark a second time

# FY27 Budget Background

- This is a level-funded appropriation which means it is the same as our FY26 budget
- This is the only budget requested by the Town thus far.
- Changes to this budget, such as additional cuts or an override, may be requested as the Town moves forward through the budget process.
- If we are asked to significantly change this budget, we will hold another public hearing.

