Marblehead School Committee
Chair: Kate Schmeckpeper
Meeting Date, Time & Location: Thursday, October 8th, 2026, 2pm, Conference Room at 9 Widger Rd., Marblehead, MA 01945
SC Members Present: A. Williams, AM. Jordan, K. Schmeckpeper, H. Gwazda, M. Clucas
SC Members Absent:
Agenda/Materials: Link
Meeting Recording: Link
Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Henry Gwazda

FY27 School Committee Data Goals Workshop (00:00:00–00:51:00)

a. The committee observed a moment of silence in memory of Owen Coyne before beginning the goals discussion.

b. The workshop was convened to finalize the committee's FY27 goals, which had been discussed at the prior meeting as possibly three separate data-related goals.

- Work proceeded from the FY27 goals document presented by Al Williams at the last meeting, shared on screen.
- An addendum listing assessments such as DIBELS, iReady and MCAS was reviewed but kept separate from the goal itself.

c. The committee discussed whether to retain a separate vision statement or fold the language directly into the goal.

- The committee discussed revising the overarching vision and goal language, including whether to retain a separate vision statement or incorporate it into a broader goal, with measurable objectives or benchmarks underneath.

d. The committee generally supported organizing its work around one overarching data-focused goal, with three related components. The final structure and wording were left for further refinement by the Goals Subcommittee.

- The components focused on identifying relevant data and indicators, establishing a schedule for presenting and reviewing that data, and determining how the findings would inform committee decisions and communication with the community.
- Members discussed tracking the review schedule through the evolving year-long agenda document and identifying data gaps by year's end.

e. Extensive discussion addressed comparing Marblehead to other districts, including the value and limits of MCAS and outside rankings.

- Members discussed identifying appropriate comparison districts and documenting the rationale for those comparisons, while emphasizing the importance of historical trends, student growth, and measures beyond MCAS.
- It was noted comparison districts might differ by metric, and that DESE cohorts could serve as a starting point.

f. Members discussed how finely data should be broken down and what indicators beyond MCAS should be considered.

- Breakdowns by special education, English learners and high-needs students were sought, while avoiding granularity that could compromise student privacy in a small district.
- Suggested additional metrics included absenteeism, trusted-adult relationships from the youth behavior survey, post-secondary outcomes, and participation in clubs and sports.

g. The committee discussed what action the data should drive, given its core responsibilities.

- Data was tied to budget decisions and the superintendent's performance evaluation, with caution expressed about using policy to make operational decisions.
- Members noted investments such as technology upgrades, curriculum refresh and override funding should eventually show measurable results.

h. The committee set next steps for finalizing the goal language and supporting detail.

- Superintendent John Robidoux and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Julia Ferreira will meet to discuss the data and metrics she is presenting next Thursday.The administration will provide recommended appropriate metrics and comparison districts to the Goals Subcommittee.

i. The committee agreed the Goals Subcommittee, consisting of Ann-Marie Jordan and Al Williams, will wordsmith the goal language and bring it back for a formal vote at the November 5th meeting, keeping the existing October 21st subcommittee meeting date to prepare the revised language.

- Members agreed this single data-focused goal was sufficient for the year and declined to add additional goals.
- Documentation of comparison districts and metrics will be added to the goal document and shared via Dropbox or Google Drive rather than a live shared document.

j. A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Al Williams to adjourn the meeting.

- The motion passed 5-0.

k. The meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.