

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday December 7, 2023
7:00PM

Members Present: Sarah Fox, Brian Ota, Jennifer Schaeffner , Alison Taylor. Meaghan Taylor

Also Present: Dr. Theresa McGuinness-Interim Superintendent, Michelle Cresta-Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Julia Ferreira-Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jane Tremblay-Massachusetts Association of School Committees

I. Initial Business

a. Call to Order

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 7:01PM

b. Commendations

- Sarah Fox wants to commend the entire Marblehead Community on getting through a very difficult week

c. Public Comment

- Melanie Andrews-13 Tucker Street Marblehead
 - She begins by reading an excerpt from a website by the American Library Association regarding banning certain books
 - Melanie goes on to explain that her son was given a banned book assignment and was sent home with a permission slip for her to sign so that he was able to read the book
 - She looked up the book and found that the subject matter was not appropriate for her child's age group
 - She requests that there are additional "safeguards" put in place regarding these kinds of assignments and that the teachers do not place the "onus solely on the parents to do the jobs of our teachers"
- Mary McCarriston-46 Pine Cliff Drive Marblehead
 - Mary references the workshop meeting last week
 - She states that the school committee wants the "stakeholders and the community to believe in you but there is no transparency or accountability"
- Kristen Horton-23 Orange Street Marblehead
 - Kristen is a member of the Racial Justice Taskforce in Marblehead and reads a letter that she had submitted to the School Committee and local papers
- Virginia O'Brien-2 Gordon Road

- Virginia was the one who suggested that the School Committee attend a workshop for team building purposes and was glad that they did attend a workshop
- Virginia does believe that the workshops should be held with just the School Committee members to create a “safe space” to try and figure out how to do things better going forward

a. District Updates-Dr. Theresa McGuinness

- Dr. McGuinness begins by speaking about the events at Glover School
 - Dr. McGuinness goes on to state that Hope Doran, Principal of Glover School, has taken a Medical Leave as of 12/05/23
 - Matt Fox, Veterans School Principal, will be the interim Glover School Principal through Winter Break
 - The School Committee and Dr. McGuinness met with the Glover School parents today
 - There will be an immediate search for an acting Principal for the duration of Hope Doran’s absence which is undefined at this time
 - Julia Ferreira will return to Veteran’s Middle School as the acting Principal while Matt Fox is at the Glover School
 - Dr. McGuinness goes on to discuss the “medical emergency” at Glover School earlier in the week
 - Additionally the District is “expediting an investigation into our practices due to recent incidents involving a restraint of a general education student at the Glover School”

- Dr. Jane Tremblay-New Superintendent Induction Program
 - Jane is a retired educator from Lynnfield
 - Jane is a coach to new Superintendents in the Commonwealth

- FY 25 Budget Status Update-Michelle Cresta
 - Earlier this week the budget process was started for 2025
 - Budget notebooks were distributed to the Principals on 11/21/23 and are due back on 12/18/23
 - Budget books will be distributed to the School Committee and Town Officials on 01/12/24
 - Budget will consist of two requests, one for Level Services Budget and a Level Funded Budget
 - Level Funded-This means that the Budget will remain as it was for FY 24 and there will need to be cuts made to keep the budget at that number
 - Level Services-This means taking that same figure and “transport it to what that same level of services with no cuts would cost next year”

III. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Schedule of Bills (vote)

Motion to approve the identified schedule of bills totaling \$345,245.08.

Moved by Ms. Schaeffner, Seconded by Mr. Alison Taylor

Ms. Meaghan Taylor, Ms. Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Schaeffner, and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 5-0

b. Approval of Minutes (vote)

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for 08/18/23

Moved by Ms. Schaeffner , Seconded by Mr. Alison Taylor

Ms. Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Schaeffner, and Ms. Fox-All Yes

Ms. Meaghan Taylor-Abstained

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 4-0 with one abstention

IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. Village Scoreboard Donation Request

- Mr.-Glass has asked that we postpone this discussion until after 01/01/24 when he can join the School Committee in person to present

b. School Committee Operating Protocols (vote)

Motion to approve the School Committee protocols as presented

Moved by Ms. Schaeffner, Seconded by Mr. Alison Taylor

Opened up for Discussion

- Sarah begins by stating the School Committee have condensed our protocols from the six pages it had become to one to two pages on advice of the MA Association of School Committees regarding
- No other discussion

Ms. Meaghan Taylor, Ms. Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Schaeffner, and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 5-0

c. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates

- Finance Committee-Sarah Fox
 - No updates other than Michelle's update on the budget for FY 25
- Policy Committee- Jennifer Schaeffner

- No Updates
- Meaghan Taylor- SEPAC and Metco Committees
 - SEPAC has a meeting tomorrow 12/08/23 via Zoom

V. Closing Business

a. New Business-School Committee Announcements and Requests

- None

b. Correspondence

- None

Motion and Vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter JOA, Section 12 (a) for purpose (3), to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining requested, and litigation threatened, in the MEA letter dated 12/6/2023, where the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Committee with the intent not to return to open session.

Moved by Ms. Schaeffner, Seconded by Mr. Alison Taylor

Ms. Meaghan Taylor, Ms. Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Schaeffner, and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 5-0

Executive Session

The Marblehead School Committee will be entering executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter JOA, Section 12 (a) for purpose (3), to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining requested, and litigation threatened, in the MEA letter dated 12/6/2023, where the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Committee with the intent not to return to open session.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison McMahon, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee