

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting  
Budget Public Hearing**

**Thursday March 31, 2022**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88434759225?pwd=SIZDUm5vUnFNM2RFYm9FZUFBUG56dz0>

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**Zoom Recording ID 884 3475 9225**

**Members Present:** Sarah Gold, Meagan Taylor, Sarah Fox, Emily Barron and David Harris

**Also:** John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning  
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations  
Paula Donnelly, Director of Student Services

**I. Initial Business**

a. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

**II. Statement from the Chair**

Ms. Gold read a prepared statement regarding the recent loss of High School Senior, James Galante. She shared the committee's deepest condolences for family and friends and commended all who offered support during a difficult time.

**III. Budget Public Hearing on the Proposed FY23 School Budget**

Ms. Gold opened the public hearing at 7:03pm and reminded the community that they would be hearing the Superintendent's proposed FY23 budget presented by Dr. Buckey, which would remain the Superintendent's budget until voted by school committee at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Superintendent Buckey thanked the leadership team for their attendance prior to sharing a slideshow of the proposed budget. He explained that the budget process was an iterative process beginning earlier in the year with public listening sessions and multiple reviews with the leadership team, budget subcommittee and the Town and school committee. It was further explained that the FY23 budget aligns with the Planning for Success Initiative originally proposed back in October.

It was noted that the budget directives consisted of the following:

- Meet contractual obligations
- Offer full day kindergarten
- Focus on offering an inclusive special education model
- Undergo a transportation audit
- Continue to address technology needs
- Address curriculum needs (staffing and specific curricula)
- Consider staffing for a shared elementary principal position
- Align facilities operating budget needs with capital requests

A tracking sheet sharing one time vs recurring costs was shared along with a list of leadership team confirmed FY23 budget priorities. The requests and the reasoning behind why they were prioritized was included.

Superintendent Buckey included a slide on the ESSER grant funding the district received, which totaled 1.2 million. It was of importance to note that much of the grant money went to cleaning costs and personal protective equipment to be able to keep the schools operational. Superintendent Buckey also provided information on capital requests with warrant articles, vehicle requests such as for a truck with a plow that the Town will fund and the grants and revolving funds that are considered with the FY23 budget ask.

#### Public Comment

Jonathan Letterman of United Rd. inquired why a full budget roll out for review was not posted instead of a budget supplement. He also recommended looking into the federal census data called “Dart”

Superintendent Buckey confirmed stakeholders determined the needs and mentioned that a budget binder has been available at Widger Rd. since December. Ms. Cresta explained that there is line item autonomy due to line item fluctuations for staffing adjustments until finalized for the following school year. Allocations are unable to be confirmed until placements/positions are confirmed.

Meredith Tedford of Locust St. spoke of the ability of the Town to fund an override request to which Superintendent Buckey shared that the Town is prepared to go for override next year to help address ongoing budgeting concerns but that the schools would not wait another year to provide an exemplary education.

Ms. Nancy Smith of Commercial St. shared her input as to how to manage the lunch program in a way to attract students to join it.

Ms. Jessica Benedetto of Bradlee Rd. spoke in favor of expanding the bus pilot program. She also inquired about the bus driver vacancies.

Ms. Cresta clarified that there are two vacant bus driver positions in the current budget and an additional position for the pay to ride program should it be able to be expanded.

Mr. Jeff St. George W Shore Dr. shared his student services concerns about professional development and spoke in favor of using a modern co-taught model to save the district money. He also spoke in favor of funding a high school curriculum coach for FY23.

Dr. Paula Donnelly noted that there is a favorable teacher to student ratio in Marblehead but that the allocation of staffing throughout the course of day could be revisited. She explained that professional development is usually grant funded which is why it is not in the budget.

Ms. Kim Day of Liberty Rd. spoke in favor of an override and using a consultant instead of a director for the DEI position. She also recommended sharing the position with another district.

Assistant Principal and DEI representative, Julia Ferreira spoke in favor of filling the DEI position in an effort to advance the DEI mission that has already begun.

Emily DeWitt of Atlantic Av. spoke in favor of a high school curriculum director or coach.

In response to Kim Day's DEI consultant inquiry, Superintendent Buckey explained that several models were being explored.

Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy shared that the vision of the position is for someone to be able to operationalize the DEI work while building relationships with other team members so they can perform their regular daily work while incorporating the DEI work into their teaching.

Marblehead Teacher and DEI representative Maggie Doben explained that a consultant will not know the culture and climate of the district. The position will play a role in curriculum choice to ensure equity and how to implement the work at a classroom level, which a consultant cannot attain if they are not spending time in the district.

Ms. Alexa Singer spoke in favor of a k-6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies curriculum.

Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy noted that the district is currently dedicated to developing a K-12 scope and sequence and that aligning future curriculum to that learning roadmap would be looked into the following year. She also shared that a pilot program through DESE was being looked into.

Ms. Emily DeWitt inquired why a DEI position was a current priority instead of curriculum coaches.

Superintendent Buckey explained the need for a DEI position has been made clear with the number of hate related incidences occurring throughout the year and throughout many school districts.

Ms. Barron clarified that the DEI position would incorporate curriculum concerns.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting and the hearing at 8:33pm

*Materials Included:  
Budget Documents*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Dimier, Secretary  
Marblehead School Committee*

*Approved May 19, 2022*