

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday November 18, 2021
7:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 506 450 3898
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5064503898>

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

Participated Remote: Sarah Fox

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Matt Fox, Veterans Middle School Principal
Kimberly Grad, Abbot Public Library Director
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance

I. Initial Business

- a. Call to Order
Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
- b. Commendations
 - Ms. Gold commended the Magic Hat Thrift Shop for being awarded the *Nonprofit of the Year* by the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Ms. Fox acknowledged the psychologists and support staff in honor of national recognition day.
 - Mr. Harris recognized building committee member Jackie Belf-Becker for being named *Citizen of the Year*.
- c. Student Representative-Yasen Colon
 - Students took a youth behavior at risk survey on 11/3
 - National French week was celebrated from 11/3-11/9
 - A Booster Bash was held on 11/6
 - The Mental Health Task Force held a panel discussion on community mental health concerns on 11/8
 - The Freshmen attended a presentation on acceptable social media use on 11/9
 - The Sophomore Class and National Green School Society recently held fundraisers
 - The Service Learning class helped at the Council on Aging for a Veterans Day breakfast
 - The Choir sang at Abbot Hall on Veterans Day
 - 11/12 will be the end of the quarter
 - Dr. Henry Turner principal of Newton North High School recently presented about Standing Up to Racism
 - Spirit week is scheduled for the following week
 - The Best Buddies, a group focused on ending isolation of people with developmental disabilities will host a dodge ball event on Tuesday
 - The Sing Free or Die Hard Acapella group will perform Tuesday 11/23 at 7pm

- A Clothing swap will take place before and after the performance.
 - A Pep rally is scheduled on the half day before Thanksgiving
 - A Sports updates was provided and Powder Puff is scheduled for the weekend
 - Mr. Colon commended Mr. Lavender for the nice experience rock climbing
- d. Public Comment
None

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

- a. Approval to Declare Veterans Library Books as Surplus
Ms. Gold made a motion to allow the middle school to declare roughly 150 books as surplus. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox, Mr. Harris and Ms. Barron-all yes.

Ms. Gold made a second motion to allow the middle school to declare books as surplus when they meet the MUSTIE criteria (misleading, ugly, superseded, trivial, irrelevant or could be obtained elsewhere) for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox, Mr. Harris and Ms. Barron-all yes.

- b. Memorandum of Understanding
Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the facilities memorandum with the Board of Selectmen and designate the facilities representative as the point person for the MOU. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox, Mr. Harris and Ms. Barron-all yes.

III. Superintendent Report

- a. District Updates
Superintendent Buckey provided updates on the vaccinations clinics, the budget process, a calendar and enrollment update, park and recreation information and an upcoming Superintendent Coffee.

It was shared that two clinics have already taken place with the Board of Health and Flag Pharmacy with a third mobile clinic scheduled for December 2nd.

The budget process is underway with a draft calendar and priorities being determined. Two listening sessions have occurred and budget focused leadership meetings have begun. It was mentioned that a facilities audit to determine capital requests would also begin.

Superintendent Buckey confirmed the final day of school for students would be June 21st and the 22nd for staff due to a recent cancellation.

It was explained that enrollment was down from earlier projections. The current district enrollment is 2,611 not including out of district students.

Marblehead Park and Recreation will use the Eveleth School for some programming.

A Superintendent Coffee is scheduled for December 20th at 8:30am.

A conversation about the possibility of adjusting the Kindergarten screening date took place along with a brief discussion about reaching out to unrolled students about returning.

Superintendent Buckey provided an update on the Sustainability committee and the composting efforts underway.

IV. Finance and Organizational Support

a. Schedules

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$2,364,620.59. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0

Ms. Gold, Ms. Fox, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Harris and Ms. Barron-all yes.

V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items

a. Abbot Library Presentation-Kimberly Grad, Director

This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed after the committee meetings and outreach discussion.

Ms. Kimberly Grad with the Abbot Public Library gave a presentation on the history of the library and overview of staff members. She explained the anticipated timeline for renovation plans for the library sharing there is an interest in using the Coffin School as their interim space during the building project. It was mentioned that the library would like to move into an interim space in the summer of 2022 and renovations would begin in the fall of 2022 and last until the fall of 2023. Ms. Grad further explained the benefits of allowing the library to occupy the space including building upgrades to outfit the space for library use.

Ms. Fox made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Abbot Public Library to allow the library to use the Coffin School as their interim space during their building project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox and Ms. Barron-all yes

b. Review of Policies

i) EBCFA Face Coverings

Ms. Gold explained that the face coverings policy was edited to reflect the district being able to go mask optional once a building has met the eighty percent (80%) vaccination status to qualify for a DESE waiver to be able to do so.

Ms. Gold spoke in favor of having the nurses coordinate with the Board of Health to confirm building vaccination numbers. Ms. Gold also recommended working towards going mask optional by the Tuesday after MLK Day.

A discussion about the possibility of different schools qualifying to meet the mask optional guidelines while other schools remained masked took place. Ms. Fox also confirmed with the Superintendent that mid-year requests to transfer buildings due to a buildings mask status would not be entertained.

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept changes to policy EBCFA, IJNDD and IJOC. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. Ms. Taylor requested adding “and approved by” to the edited policy in reference to submitting the waiver to DESE.

Superintendent Buckey recommended separating out the policy votes to reflect a timeframe in the face coverings policy as he mentioned the community would be looking for a date.

Ms. Taylor amended the motion to included “submitted and approved by” to policy EBCFA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox and Ms. Barron-all yes

- ii) IJNDD Social networking Policy for Staff
The edits were not discussed and this policy was passed along with the discussed edits to the face covering policy.
- iii) IJOC School Volunteers
The edits were not discussed and this policy was passed along with the discussed edits to the face covering policy.
- c. School Children’s Bill, H.926 Resolution Discussion
This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed as the first agenda item under the school committee discussion section until Ms. Grad could join the meeting to present for the library.
Ms. Gold informed the committee about the resolution to support state level pesticide reform legislation. After a brief discussion and although no formal vote was taken, it was decided that more information would be shared with committee members in consideration of a vote for the next meeting.
- d. School Committee Meeting Locations and Outreach
This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed as the second agenda item of the school committee discussion section.

Ms. Gold revisited an earlier conversation regarding how committee members could make themselves more accessible to the community. She shared information from the Attorney General's Office regarding concerns about the possibility of violating open meeting law by holding two member committee coffees. It was clarified that no violation would occur if no quorum was present for the coffees.

Ms. Gold also discussed the possibility of moving the committee meetings back to in-person in the new year when COVID guidelines would allow for a safe transition. Committee members agreed to work towards coordinating a plan for meeting in-person while considering how to best include community members at home that would be unable to attend in-person.

e. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- Ms. Fox mentioned the need for new roofs and the option of installing solar panels when roofs are replaced.

Ms. Taylor inquired about the submission deadline for capital requests to which Ms. Fox was not certain. Ms. Taylor requested that the date be confirmed and brought back to the full committee so the requests can be discussed beforehand.

Ms. Fox mentioned that leftover money from the building project could be put towards another project such as new roofs if it was approved and voted at Town Meeting.

Ms. Fox also reminded the committee that the estimated costs in the facilities assessment would be higher due to increasing prices as a direct result of COVID.

- A policy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 30th
- The safety committee met for the first time in many years and a plan of priorities was shared
- The school advisory council SAC for the new Brown School met for the first time

VI. Closing Business

a. New Business

Mr. Harris mentioned an email from a Baldwin Rd resident regarding a downed power line from a delivery to the new school and assured members it has been addressed. He thanked the resident for their cooperation.

b. Correspondence

Ms. Gold mentioned an email regarding masking that was received by community member, Emily DeWitt.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:04pm.

Materials Included:

Veterans Book Surplus Memo
Facilities Memorandum
Superintendent Updates Memo
Use of Eveleth School Memo
Schedule of Bills
Abbot Public Library Presentation
Policies-EBCFA, IJNDD and IJOC
Resolution-Pesticide Protection
Open Meeting Law Correspondence
Emily and Don Dewitt Correspondence

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

Approved March 17, 2022