



MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marblehead School Committee

9 Widger Road,
Marblehead, MA 01945
phone: 781.639.3140 x16
email:schoolcommittee@marbleheadschoools.org

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2021

Time: 8:30am

Location: Zoom Conference join via the web link or Dial in

Link: <https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/96630033184?pwd=UGx6ZDhXMkQzdDdXdXp3eDhBbVhhdz09>

Dial in Phone # (415) 762-9988 with ID and follow prompts

Meeting ID: 966 3003 3184

Password: 293444

Attendance:

John Buckey | David Harris | Meagan Taylor | Michelle Cresta | Jackie Belf-becker | Jason Silva | Ben Berman | Emily Belfbecker | Blair Nelson

Agenda items

I. FY21 updates

- a) Reviewed “Memo - FY21 Budget Status 12.31.20 for SC” document, dated 101/13/2021
 - i) Discussion centered around projected shortfalls and covid-related expenditures.
 - (1) Substitutes
 - (a) We are currently seeing a 40-50% fill rate, compared to 85% in a typical year. We will review the daily rate. However, Ms. Cresta noted that this is an issue in many districts in the state, especially this year. Substitutes are difficult to find in a pandemic. We are having the same issue with bus drivers.
 - (2) Covid
 - (a) PPE supplies are projected to last through the end of the school year.
 - (b) Cleaning contract is wrapping up by February break. We do not plan to extend or renew the contract.
 - (c) Storage trailers are the only continued cost, at approx. \$5K.



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- (d) A second round of government funding is expected. Marblehead is slated to receive approx. \$180K.
 - (e) At the town level, there is a small surplus from the CARES Act as a result of potential FEMA reimbursements.
- (3) Funding projected shortfalls
- (i) We are closely monitoring shortfalls in Food Service, Tuition (PK/K) and special education. Ms. Cresta noted that we have been tracking these lines since the beginning of the year. For example, we have 14 paying preschool students this year, (compared to 23 in FY20) and no paying Kindergarten students. We are currently projecting that we will be able to fund shortfalls through the operating budget. Ms. Cresta noted that the CARES Act funds cannot be used to cover revenue shortfalls.
 - (b) Special education is still tracking a \$93K shortfall. We do not expect to utilize the special education reserve fund at this time.
 - (c) Mr. Harris queried how we were tracking on utilities. Ms. Cresta noted that due to covid, similar to last year, we are not projecting to hit the utility reserve as early as in previous years.
- ii) Mr. Berman commented that that the message is that the FY21 school budget is on track.

II. FY22 planning

- a) Reviewed “SC FY22 Budget Development Calendar.pdf”
 - i) General consensus among the group that the calendar was acceptable.
 - ii) Mr. Silva noted that our schedule should line up with the town’s budget planning process.
 - iii) State of Town is expected to be held in a Board of Selectmen meeting – either their last meeting in January or early February.
 - iv) Next joint meeting will be on February 24th at 8:30am.
 - v) There is a placeholder for the School Committee to present the FY22 budget to the Finance Committee on March 29, 2021. Finance Committee liaisons to confirm date and time.
- b) Reviewed “SC FY22 Budget Development Calendar”



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- i) Mr. Nelson asked if there are any pressing needs that are not currently on the priorities list. Summer remediation due to school closures will need to be addressed. We are currently planning to utilize SOA funds for this need.
- c) Discussion of potential for override. Mr. Nelson stated his disappointment that the School Committee is not asking for an override. Mr. Berman noted that the Finance Committee is very supportive of school funding. It was noted that while there is support for an override, there are a number of factors that may not be conducive for that request in FY22. For example, but not limited to, enrollment disparities as a result of the pandemic and the undertaking of new strategic plan, both of which will have a material impact on long-term budget planning. From the town perspective, the community is struggling as a result of the pandemic, many have lost jobs and businesses have had to close. Given the circumstances, a general override may not be prudent at this time.
- d) Discussion regarding the possibility of a debt-exclusion override to fund a specific one-time expense, such as necessary technology upgrades. The group is willing to explore this more.
- e) No matter which path is taken, it needs to be a group effort as there is only 1 budget for the town.

III. Next Steps

- a) None that have not already been discussed.