

Marblehead School Committee

July 8, 2020

7:00 PM

Zoom Conference - Meeting ID 97388102759 & Password: 672894

<https://zoom.us/j/97388102759?pwd=MVNJZGtRSGJJSzIDVGRNVG0vNEZvdz09>

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Meeting ID 97388102759

I. Initial Business

1. Sarah Gold called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

2. Commendations

Sarah Fox made a commendation to Samantha Rosetto for organizing the Go fund me drive that allowed the free lunch program to continue through the summer.

3. Public Comment

Alastar Conner noted questions regarding fall reentry and the possibility of reduced hours and outdoor classrooms.

Erin Noonan, 15 Beverly Ave. Ms Noonan commented regarding extended year services. Ms Noonan noted this week approximately 200 students started receiving summer services, the vast majority of whom are starting with remote learning. Ms Noonan commended Eric Oxford for all the work he is doing and acknowledged the many obstacles facing the district. Ms Noonan stated remote learning is suboptimal for all students but profoundly inadequate for the special education students receiving summer services. Ms Noonan asked that the goal of everyone be to transition the extended year students to in person learning as soon as possible.

Scott Solberg, 1 Ramsey Rd. Mr Solberg welcomed Dr Buckey on behalf of the SEPAC.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

1. Motion to appoint Superintendent, Dr John Buckey to the Building Committee

The motion was moved by David Harris  
Meagan Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
Meagan Taylor	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

2. Motion to appoint Dr John Buckey as the district's representative to the Northshore Education Consortium Board

The motion was moved by Meagan Taylor  
Sarah Fox seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
Meagan Taylor	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

### III. Superintendent Report

#### 1. Reentry Update

Dr Buckey thanked Ms Noonan for her thoughtful comments on the extended year program and agreed that Eric Oxford has been working very hard.

Dr Buckey acknowledged Bill McAlduff for his invaluable work over the past year and noted Mr McCaulduff has offered to continue to be a source of support.

Dr Buckey noted the district is exactly where it should be in the reentry process and noted DESE continues to release new guidelines and is cautioning districts from releasing plans yet. Dr Buckey noted the school department currently has a document laying out the path for establishing the reentry plan which he will be releasing to the public later in the week. Dr Buckey commended the building principals for the work they are doing to establish their buildings capacity and needs. Dr Buckey stated he had been in contact with Jason Silva regarding the idea of purchasing PPE as a group with other towns. Dr Buckey noted he had shared the framework for the reentry planning with the school committee which would include the main reopening committee with eight subcommittees under it.

Dr Buckey noted DESE is asking districts to consider three options: a full in person model, full remote and a hybrid model. Dr Buckey stated the hybrid model makes everyone the most nervous and presents the most challenges. Dr Buckey noted DESE will be much more involved in remote learning and will provide options to districts that he felt would be very beneficial.

Meagan Taylor stated she currently did not have specific questions but thanked Dr Buckey for laying the plan out in a very thoughtful manner.

David Harris asked Dr Buckey to give an overview of Christine McGrath and her role with MASS. Dr Buckey noted Ms McGrath would act as his coach as he goes through the new superintendent program at the MASS.

Emily Barron stated she is friends with Christine McGrath who will act as Dr Buckey's MASS mentor.

Sarah Fox asked about a possible fee to buy into the statewide remote learning program, noting the need to allocate budget. Dr Buckey replied we currently have the necessary funding for any remote programs. Ms Fox also requested there be an open forum regarding remote learning to identify what worked, what did not and any other further concerns. Dr Buckey replied he felt the survey identified what worked and did not but noted he was not opposed to a forum but asked to wait until mid August. Ms Gold also agreed that waiting to hold a forum would be beneficial. Ms Gold noted that if asked three weeks ago she may have said the hybrid model is where we wanted to be and now felt it was the last place the district should be therefore waiting to see how things develop would be beneficial. Ms Fox noted she was hoping to present less and listen more during the forum. Ms Fox asked how the reopening subcommittees would be formed and Ms Gold responded that it is a work in progress. Dr Buckey noted there had been a lot of interest in being on the committees, was currently working on the website and hoped to have committee members listed soon.

## 2. District survey on remote learning update

Dr Buckey stated he had 1028 pages worth of information to share from the survey and noted the launch of the survey was not as smooth as he would hope. Dr Buckey noted 88% of respondents noted there was also an adult working at home, 86% indicated they had adequate access to learning materials and 36% stated their student spent 2 hours a day in remote learning while 29% stated their student spent more than 3 hours a day in remote learning. Dr Buckey noted that one of the biggest learning curves for everyone on remote learning was that people thought what happened in a 6 hour school day could just be translated into the same as remote when in reality it is closer to a 50% translation. Dr Buckey noted it was clear that families did not feel expectations were clear, manageable and consistent. Dr Buckey noted no decisions would be made based on the results of the survey as it was not scientific and did not feel that it was a good use of the district's resources to develop a scientific survey. Dr Buckey did state that the open answer portion of the survey was very informative. Dr Buckey stated this was the first of many surveys which would include a preference for learning models as well as staff survey.

Sarah Fox noted the 4th grade was the largest response yet one of our smallest classes resulting in a 78% response rate. Ms Fox asked if there was a sense if the bulk of the responses were positive or negative. Dr Buckey replied that he did not feel there was a grade specific issue. Ms Fox noted she was wondering more if it was age specific because that grade tended to be when students begin being more independent and therefore may have had more difficulty transitioning

to the remote model. Ms Fox asked if the results would be made available particularly the open response questions because Dr Buckey had noted those provided the best information. Dr Buckey noted he had not considered that but would work with the chair to determine if that was appropriate. Ms Fox asked when the survey to determine which model families would choose would be sent out. Dr Buckey replied he did not anticipate that survey going out prior to July 25.

David Harris noted these were uncharted waters and that the survey was not necessarily that people were not satisfied but rather what experiences were and gathering information.

Ms Fox noted she believes in the train the trainer model and asked if any of the information that resulted from the survey identified staff that we may want to use in this model to maximize results. Dr Buckey replied he also likes the model and would like to implement it if possible.

Ms Fox asked if we could return to public comment as there was a pertinent question in the comment thread. Ms Gold read the question "if there was any summary of significant challenges that came out of the survey" Dr Buckey noted he has shared that information with the leadership team.

Meagan Taylor noted she did not have any specific questions at this time but noted the number of responses showed engagement from the public and wanted to give Dr Buckey time to work through the information.

### III. Finance organization support

#### 1. Schedule of Bills

Ms Fox asked what would happen if Kindergarten and Preschool refunds continue to be requested after we close FY20. Ms Cresta noted those funds are held in a revolving fund so may still be refined upon request. Ms Fox asked if enough was reserved to refund everyone if necessary. Ms Cresta replied yes.

Motion was made to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$1,436,915.66

The motion was moved by Sarah Fox

Meagan Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
Meagan Taylor	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

2. Bill signing process discussion

Ms Gold noted we had previously assigned her as a single signature with Sarah Fox as a backup for signatures opposed to requiring three signatures on all schedules of bills. Ms Gold asked that this continue.

Ms Taylor noted the reason for having three signatures was to have more oversight and now that we are in a more virtual environment she felt it was no longer necessary as Ms Cresta was scanning invoices. Ms Taylor questioned why specific people were named and she preferred to assign specific roles and also suggested that the change be permanent.

Ms Fox noted concern that the motion did not require the bills to be uploaded which would take away transparency. Ms Fox asked that the motion be that all bills be uploaded as well. Mr Harris read the policy as it currently stands and stated he felt it provided opportunity for inspection. Ms Fox asked to clarify that all bills would be scanned and available in the dropbox. Ms Cresta noted it was not much additional work and was possible to scan and upload easily. Ms Cresta also stated the superintendent was not currently signing, rather the procurement officer was. Ms Taylor asked how it worked in other districts. Ms Cresta replied she has never seen the superintendent sign but rather it is always solely the School Committee who signs. Ms Gold noted the policy subcommittee would need to look further at this policy.

Ms Gold read: "Motion to enable the chair be designated to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls not otherwise presented for approval at a posted meeting to the full committee from the period beginning now thru June 30, 2021 provided if such approval takes place a record of such approval shall be made available to the committee at the first meeting following such approval and that said record of approval be placed on the next meeting as an agenda item. Further, that the secretary be designated as the backup signature if necessary."

Meagan Taylor suggested language change to the chair to designate a second person to sign.

Ms Gold asked for a Motion to enable the chair be designated to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls not otherwise presented for approval at a posted meeting to the full committee from the period beginning now thru June 30, 2021 provided if such approval takes place a record of such approval shall be made available to the committee at the first meeting following such approval and that said record of approval be placed on the next meeting as an agenda item. The chair will designate a back up member if necessary.

The motion was moved by Meagan Taylor

Emily Barron seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
Meagan Taylor	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

Ms Fox asked that the policy subcommittee revise the policy as we are still in violation of the policy.

### 3. Breakfast and lunch program update

Ms Cresta noted the emergency meal program was extended through August 31 for all individuals under the age of 18. Ms Cresta stated Samantha Rosatto set up a fundraiser to fully fund the program and successfully raised funding within a few days in conjunction with families who contacted the district to donate their students my school bucks, jointly totaling \$3005.15. Ms Cresta encouraged anyone who needed to utilize the program to do so.

Ms Gold thanked Ms Rosatto, Ms Cresta and Mr Kelleher for all the work that went into extending the program.

Ms Fox asked Ms Cresta if we were able to do all the pre payments and purchases to offset the FY21 Capital ask. Ms Cresta replied yes. Ms Fox also asked for any updates on the year end close. Ms Cresta said they should be done at the end of the month.

## IV. School Committee communications and/or discussions

### 1. Retreats and Summer Meeting Dates and Discussion

Ms Gold stated she had discussed with Dr Buckey and Ms Taylor the desire to hold the traditional summer retreat in person. Ms Gold presented the idea of meeting outside the Glover School under the covered front entry. Ms Gold noted she would work with Dorothy Presser to present a workshop. Ms Gold also stated there is a need for an additional retreat meeting as well.

Ms Fox noted the idea of an outdoor meeting was preferable to anything indoors. Ms Fox asked Ms Taylor if MASC was still performing in person seminars. Ms Taylor mentioned the new member training were all virtual but that Ms Presser would do in person seminars on a case by case basis. Ms Fox asked for a list of the current seminars being offered to get a consensus of what members are looking for. Ms Gold replied that Dr Buckey and she had decided a presentation on a strategic plan and superintendent evaluation would be beneficial. Ms Taylor noted the seminars mentioned by Ms Gold were the ones she had discussed with Ms Presser. Ms Taylor also noted she wanted to look at communication and subcommittees. Ms Gold instructed the committee to email her with any suggestions of seminars they were hoping for. Ms Fox requested a seminar on team building. Ms Gold and Ms Taylor replied they would inquire.

Ms Gold asked for dates for the summer retreat and follow meeting. Ms Taylor noted she preferred in person, Ms Barron and Mr Harris agreed. Ms Taylor noted the July dates Ms Presser is not available. July 28th at 8:30am was decided to work best for everyone for the retreat. August 10 at 9am was determined to work best for everyone. Ms Barron noted she may need to call in due to travel and Ms Fox noted she would prefer attending virtually due to personal medical needs. Ms Taylor asked if it made sense to change the date as Ms Barron may be unable to attend in person. Ms Barron noted she could work around her plans and August 10 worked.

2. Declare District Surplus Items

Ms Gold asked for a motion to declare the districts items outlined in the list provided to the school committee as surplus.

The motion was moved by Meagan Taylor.

Emily Barron seconded the motion.

Ms Fox asked if it behooved us to keep surplus tables until we know what the distancing requirements for the fall would be. Ms Cresta noted once surplus was declared it would be determined if there was any use for the items. Ms Cresta stated she had spoken with Mr Bloodgood and he had noted the only thing usable were the tables and they would be further examined. Ms Cresta noted the storage was needed for PPE. Ms Cresta noted a surplus of 560 GoMath 2012 books were also included.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
Meagan Taylor	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business

Ms Fox asked about committing to public forums were interaction between the school committee, public and leadership team this year. Ms Gold noted she would add it to a future agenda.

Ms Fox also asked to set a date that material would be in the dropbox. Ms Gold replied that was currently being worked on.

Ms Taylor noted the forums would be a good retreat discussion as well as how we communicate to the community.

Ms Gold noted all committee members had received an email from representative Ehrlich asking all the members for their comments and concerns regarding reopening schools. Ms Gold asked if each member wanted to respond individually or if one person should respond for everyone as a representative. Ms Fox noted she planned to email Representative Ehrlich individually. Ms Taylor noted she felt differently and thought it best if everyone was on the same page and that Sarah Gold should be the spokesperson. Ms Fox stated she felt the letter was very clear that Rep. Ehrlich wanted to hear everyone's individual thoughts and that the representative would then use that information to percolate her own thoughts and bring forth what she felt was pertinent. Ms Gold stated she read it the same way but wanted to know if it was the preference of the committee to present a common list of thoughts. Ms Fox noted she often reached out to her representative leaders and felt it important to continue to do so but she did not have a problem if the other members had the chair make a statement for them. Mr Harris reread the email from Representative Ehrlich and noted he felt our superintendent and assistant superintendent should be the ones to respond. Ms Taylor and Ms Barron agreed. Ms Barron noted she felt the professional staff were more well suited to answer the email. Ms Fox noted she was making it abundantly clear as it had been a reoccurring issue over the past few months, that she would be responding to the email sent to her with her individual thoughts and concerns as asked.

## V. Closing Business

### 1. New Business

Mr Harris noted the Gerry School project had been left off the agenda and he would like to make an update. Mr Harris stated a group was working on the interiors. Mr Harris highlighted how exciting it is to hear what happens during the weekly meetings and how well the team is working together. Mr Harris noted that cost continues to be a focus in the weekly onsite meetings. Mr Harris noted a ceremony involving the students was being developed to celebrate the project. Ms Harris relayed the site plan appeal process had expired the day prior and concrete and site work would commence in the coming weeks.

### 2. Sarah Gold adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.