



DATE POSTED:

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AMENDED AGENDA

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A §§18-25 and the Governor's March 12, 2020 Executive order

Marblehead School Committee

Name of Board or Committee

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

Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92439442187?pwd=MWJOV1ZpaUdkWXZUeJlJTZkpjQktRZz09>

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

Meeting ID: 924 3944 2187

Password: 756412

Thursday	March	4th	2021	7:00pm
Day of Week	Month	Date	Year	Time

Agenda or Topics to be discussed listed below (That the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed)

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order
 - a. Statement from the Chair
2. Commendations
 - a. Building based commendations-Eveleth School, Principal Donna Zaeske
 - b. School Committee Commendations
3. Student Representative – Dan Howells
4. Public Comment

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

1. Minutes: (Vote)
February 4, 2021

III. Superintendent Report

1. Pool Testing Update
 - a. Sports-Pool Testing Participation (Vote)
2. Learning Model Update (Vote)

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills (Vote)
2. FY22 Budget Update

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. Policies to Review and Vote
 - a. *EBCFA-Face Coverings*
 - b. IHBA-Observations of Special Education Programs
 - c. IHCA-Summer Schools
 - d. JFABD-Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
 - e. JFABE-Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - f. JFABF-Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
2. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates
3. Building Project Update

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business (Not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.)
2. Correspondence
3. Public Comment
4. Adjournment

Chairperson	<u>Sarah Gold</u>
Posted by	<u>Lisa Dimier</u>
Date	<u>3/2/2021</u>



MARBLEHEAD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Office
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Marblehead, MA 01945
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee
FROM: Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance
DATE: March 2, 2021
RE: Schedule of Bills for Approval

Included in this packet is the following Schedules of Bills for your consideration. The schedules and invoices have been uploaded to Dropbox and the required signatures have been obtained for each schedule.

Schedule	Amount
20600	\$ 2,775,433.94
20606	\$ 30,783.10
20613	\$ 3,786.05
20614	\$ 5,814.50
20615	\$ 304,386.37
20622	\$ 5,829.30
Total	\$ 3,126,033.26

Suggested Motion:

Motion to approve the identified schedules of bills totaling \$3,126,033.26.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the educational stability of students in foster care and their equal access to the same free and appropriate public education **from preschool** through high school graduation as provided to other students as required by law. Educational stability has a lasting impact on students' academic achievement and wellbeing, and the School Committee is committed to supporting district and community efforts to ensure that students in foster care have access to high-quality, stable educational experiences.

The law requires that foster care students continue to attend their school of origin, unless after a collaborative decision-making process it is determined to be in the student's best interest to enroll in and attend school in the district in which a foster care provider or facility is located (if different). The law also requires that when it is not in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the student is immediately enrolled and attending in a new school district, even if records normally required for enrollment cannot be quickly produced. Additionally, the law requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the school district to designate points of contact; and also that the district collaborate with DCF to ensure that students will receive transportation to the school of origin if needed.

Best Interest Determination

Decisions about whether a student in foster care should continue to attend the school of origin should be made collaboratively by DCF, the student (as appropriate), the student's family and/or foster family (and if different, the person authorized to make educational decisions on behalf of the student), the school and district of origin, and (when different) the local district where the student is placed. Best interest determinations should focus on the needs of each individual student and take into account a variety of factors. Every effort should be made to reach agreement regarding the appropriate school placement of a student in foster care. However, if there is disagreement regarding school placement for a student in foster care, DCF will finalize the best interest determination.

The district can seek review of DCF's decision by utilizing a Foster Care School Selection Dispute Resolution Process established by DESE and DCF. Decisions made through this process are not subject to review. Under the law, to promote educational stability, students should continue to attend their schools of origin while best interest determinations are being made.

Transportation

The district of origin must collaborate with DCF on how transportation will be provided and arranged to ensure that students in foster care who need transportation to remain in their school of origin will receive such transportation while they are in foster care.

Transportation options may include using Title I funds, establishing regional collaborations among districts, coordinating with existing routes for transportation, seeking help from foster parent(s), etc. Absent other agreements between the district and DCF, the district of origin is responsible for providing transportation to and from the school of origin.

Immediate Enrollment

If it is in the best interest of a student in foster care to leave the school of origin, the student must be enrolled in school in the local school district immediately. To minimize disruption of the student's education, the law requires the district to enroll the student in a new school right away, without waiting to receive the typical student enrollment documentation (other than emergency contact information). The enrolling school must immediately contact the child's school and district of origin to obtain the relevant records and documentation, and the school and district of origin should immediately transfer those records.

To facilitate enrollment, DCF representatives will present the district with a form that indicates that the student is in foster care, along with their state-agency identification badge, when enrolling students.

LEGAL REFS: *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA);
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act) 2

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

In an effort to facilitate the placement, enrollment, graduation, data collection and provision of special services for students transferring into or out of the District because of their parents being on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, the District supports and will implement its responsibilities as outlined in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The School Committee believes it is appropriate to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of their parents' frequent moves and deployment.

Definitions

Children of military families means school aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active duty member of the uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve serving on active duty.

Deployment means the period one month before the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after return to their home station.

Education(al) records means official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school including, but not limited to, records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder.

The requirements, applicable to eligible students, which must be fulfilled, are listed below. Eligible students are those who are children of active duty personnel, active duty personnel or veterans who have been severely injured and medically discharged, active duty personnel who die on active duty within one year of service, **and children of retired personnel from one year of retirement date**. Students are not eligible for the provisions of the Compact if they are children of inactive Guard or Reserves, retired personnel, veterans not included above or U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal civil service employees and contract employees.

The District's responsibilities to eligible children include the following:

- Sending schools must send either official or unofficial records with the moving students and District receiving schools must use those records for immediate enrollment and educational placement.
- Simultaneously, the receiving school must request official records and the sending schools shall respond within 10 days with the records.
- Immunization requirements of the District may be met within 30 days from the date of enrollment (or be in progress).

- Receiving schools must initially honor placement of students in all courses from the sending school. These include, but are not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational-technical, and career pathway courses if those courses are offered in the receiving school and space is available. The receiving schools must also initially honor placement of like programs to those of the student in the sending state, including, but not limited to, Gifted and Talented programs, and English as a Second Language programs. Receiving schools are not precluded from performing subsequent evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in courses and programs.
- In compliance with federal law, special education students must be placed by the existing IEP with reasonable accommodations in the receiving school.
- The District will exercise, as deemed appropriate, the right to waive prerequisites for all courses and programs, while also maintaining its right to re-evaluate the student to ensure continued enrollment, as deemed appropriate.
- Students of active duty personnel shall have additional excused absences at the discretion of the District for visitations relative to leave or deployment.
- An eligible student living with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis shall be permitted to attend the school in which he or she was enrolled while living without the custodial parent without any tuition fee imposed.
- The District high school will accept exit or end-of-year exams required from the sending state, national norm-referenced tests, or alternate testing instead of testing requirements for graduation in the District (receiving state.) If this is not possible, the alternative provision of the Interstate Compact shall be followed in order to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Compact provisions.

LEGAL REFS: M.G. L. 15E;

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES

To the extent practical and as required by law, the district will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including: Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I similar state programs, special education programs, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, school nutrition programs, extracurricular activities/programs and summer school offerings.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Being abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement; (NOW REMOVED)
6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
8. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin, including their designated receiving school while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living, or their designated receiving school district. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families residing in the district.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. The district's liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state rule. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies and enrollment will be provided through the end of the school year in which a student becomes permanently housed. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records,

the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with district policies, including compliance with the state's address confidentiality program when necessary. **Confidential living arrangements will be protected as part of the student record.**

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student, or will divide the costs equally. **Transportation will be provided and/or costs divided equally through the end of the school year in which the student is permanently housed.**

The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. The district's liaison will also review and recommend amendments to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: The McKinney-Vento Act and Title I, Part A, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Marblehead Public Schools - Approved 10/18/18

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The school system shall make available summer sessions as a supplement to the instruction offered during the school year, when funding for such programs is available. The focus of the program will be remedial work.

To attend **tuition free** summer school, students must have the approval of their classroom and/or special subject teachers.

Students at all instructional levels may attend approved summer schools for remedial, enrichment, or make-up purposes. Credit towards graduation requirements may be granted to high school students in line with regulations of the School District.

All summer programs will be subject to annual approval by the School Committee.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:28

OBSERVATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Parents' request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made in writing at least five days in advance to the Director of Student Services or designee.
2. The Director of Student Services or designee shall contact the parent(s) for an initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents' request.
3. When a parent requests an observation of a special needs student or program, the Director of Student Services will seek approval from the building principal and appropriate level chairperson before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and DESE regulation.
4. The Director of Student Services or designee and Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling and placement of the observer in the classroom).
5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent, the parent must provide a signed release for the individual to observe prior to the observation.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
8. The observer will be informed that he/she is not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If his/her presence presents a problem, he/she will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and those of others.
9. The observer will be asked to submit his/her report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that he/she is there to evaluate the appropriateness of a specific educational program to meet the needs of an individual child. He/she is not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform his or her contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

12. The Director of Student Services or designee, will accompany the observer at all times and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s) prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

LEGAL REFS: MGL 71B:3

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Technical Assistance Advisory SPED 2009-2 dated January 8, 2009

CROSS REF.: KI, Visitors to Schools

SOURCE: MASC/Marblehead

NOTE: The following quotes from the DESE Advisory are important points of understanding to the implementation of this policy.

"School districts and parents have reported that, typically, observations are between one and four hours. While useful as a general rule, the Department recommends that district policies and practices specify that the duration and extent of observations will be determined on an individual basis. Districts should avoid rigid adherence to defined time limits regardless of the student's needs and settings to be observed. The complexities of the student's needs, as well as the program or programs to be observed, should determine what the observation will entail and what amount of time is needed to complete it. Discussion between school staff and the parent or designee is a good starting point for resolving the issue."

"The observation law states that districts may not condition or restrict program observations except when necessary to protect:

- the safety of students in the program during the observation;
- the integrity of the program during the observation;
- and students in the program from disclosure by an observer of confidential or personally identifiable information he or she may obtain while observing the program."

FACE COVERINGS

The Marblehead Public School District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face mask that, per DPH and CDC guidance:

- covers the nose and mouth;
- fits securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- is secured with ties or ear loops;
- allows for breathing without restriction;
- does NOT have an exhalation valve or vent; and
- can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change of shape

must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Exempted from this policy are individuals under the age of 2. Families will be required to provide a daily face mask, along with a backup face mask, if possible. Face masks should be labeled with the student's name. Schools will have backup masks when needed should a face mask become soiled, broken or misplaced.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, accommodations will be made for individuals for whom wearing face masks is not possible or safe due to a medical condition, disability impact, a significant impediment to communication, or other health or safety factors, which for students may include behavioral challenges. Medical documentation acceptable to Marblehead Public Schools is required for a requested accommodation. Any accommodations must be approved by the building Principal in

consultation with the school nurse or local board of health. A face shield or physical barrier is not an acceptable substitute for a face mask unless it has been deemed appropriate with an official exemption as part of the accommodation determination. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks will not be required:

- during mask breaks which will preferably occur outdoors, with a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance between individuals. All mask breaks are optional for the individual student. Students who do not want or need a mask break will not be forced to participate;
- while eating or drinking; which ideally occur outdoors and/or with maximum physical distancing.
- during physical education classes, chorus/choir, singing, brass & woodwind instruments or musical theater, all of which occur while outside with a minimum of 10 feet of physical distancing between individuals

A student's mask is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members will be supplied masks. The district will supply a disposable face mask for individuals who arrive at a building, or who board school transportation, without one. In addition to their required characteristics per DPH and CDC guidance listed above, masks must be appropriate in compliance with the same rules as are set forth in the school Dress Code and Student Handbook. No masks containing offensive or inappropriate material will be allowed.

If a student refuses to wear a mask while at school and does not have a documented reason that is consistent with this Policy, the student will be sent home. Currently, mask wearing is mandated by the State of Massachusetts and the decision to dismiss a student for not wearing a mask has been approved by the Marblehead Board of Health. While we strive to educate through restorative justice principles, there will be progressive discipline for students who do not follow the mask guidelines.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy or of the Marblehead Public Schools workplace rules and requirements.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district

facility. This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –

<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020

Marblehead Public Schools Approved 8/20/2020



Office of the Superintendent
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9 Widger Road,
Marblehead, MA 01945
phone: 781.639.3140
fax: 781.639.3149

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Lori Ehrlich
24 Beacon Street
Room 174
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Ehrlich:

As you are aware, the Governor, Secretary of Education, and Commissioner of Education are expecting students to return to school by April. We can all agree that it is imperative that children, particularly those in grades K-5 are significantly impacted by a lack of in-person learning. While we understand that the implementation of mitigation practices have minimized the transmission of Coronavirus, the reality is that health and wellness of our educators and staff are essential in our efforts to bring students back to full in person learning. The ideal way to do so is to have them vaccinated. Vaccinated school personnel will certainly perform their jobs better with the peace of mind that they are unlikely to become seriously ill.

With that said, we are requesting your advocacy to support the vaccination of school personnel through a regional approach utilizing the soon to be approved Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Logistically, Johnson and Johnson is expected to ship 20 million doses of their vaccine by "mid-March." Simple math puts that at 400,000 doses per state. There are between 72,000 – 73,000 public school teachers in Massachusetts. We are hopeful that a concerted effort to have the J&J vaccine distributed to cities and towns for vaccination with the goal of vaccinating teachers and staff will allow them to focus on educating and supporting children and begin to address the significant social emotional challenges the pandemic has created for students and families. This would in no way interrupt the flow of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to the Mass and regional vaccination sites.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions you may have or if there is any way that I can assist.

Sincerely,

John J. Buckley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Marblehead Public Schools