

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday September 2, 2021**  
**7:00pm**

Zoom Recording ID 899 5477 8619 & Password 040711

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89954778619?pwd=YkdyUVF5bjY5dGtDUXBBV1lRSmN1Zz09>

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

Remote Participation: Sarah Fox

**Also:** John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
Deann McMahon, Lead Nurse  
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance

**I. Initial Business and Public Comment**

a. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and named the members present.

b. Student Representative-Yasen Colon

Ms. Gold welcomed new student representative, Mr. Colon who provided the following updates.

- Yesterday, 9/1 was the first day of school
- Students are wearing masks, desks are spaced with assigned seating and lunch is taking place outside
- Sports practices have begun
- The Peabody Marriott will be the confirmed location for the Prom to take place on 5/13
- Magic Block, a new fifty (50) minute period was introduced to students this week. Students could take advantage of extra help, make up a test or enjoy free time in the gymnasium during the new period.

After the updates, Mr. Harris asked that Mr. Colon share a bit more information about himself. Mr. Colon mentioned that he is a Junior who participates in the Jewel Tones acapella group and the math team. He also belongs to the French Honor Society and the Green School Society.

c. Public Comment

- Jess Benedetto of Bradlee Rd commended the district for starting a bus pilot program and provided some constructive feedback about how the program could work best

**II. Consent Action and Agenda Items**

a. Memorandum of Understanding Park and Recreation

A conversation about how often the maintenance and management of lawn mowing and landscaping should occur took place. Superintendent Buckey

shared that the memorandum was a great start for future collaboration amongst the schools and the recreation department and that a future conversation regarding specifics would be welcomed when COVID had less of an impact on staffing shortages.

After a committee discussion regarding the responsibilities outlined in the MOU took place, it was recommended that the MOU be revisited during budget season to address concerns prior to the 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to approve the MOU with the Park and Recreation Department which was seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox-all in favor

b. Approval of Custodian Collective Bargaining Agreement 2021-2024

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the custodian collective bargaining agreement form 2021-2024 which was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. Ms. Fox requested that the contract be amended to reflect the Juneteenth holiday. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox-all in favor

c. Policy EBCFA-Face Coverings

Ms. Gold informed the committee that the recommended mask policy was edited to reflect language that explains mask wearing is an eligibility requirement to attend school. The Superintendent further clarified that religious and health exemptions would apply with appropriate documentation.

After a conversation about DESE mask guidelines and the option for mask optional waivers took place, it was agreed that the policy would need to be revisited again as further guidance from DESE was shared.

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept policy EBCFA Face Coverings as presented which was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was take and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox-all in favor

### **III. Superintendent Report**

a. Start of School Update

Superintendent Buckey mentioned how gratifying it is to see schools fully open and operational. He also shared department and principal updates from the first day of school.

b. Superintendent Community Outreach

Superintendent Buckey informed the committee of his plan to host monthly informational coffees that will be hosted in rotating locations and welcomed community members to attend.

c. Bussing Update

It was mentioned that due to a nationwide bus driver shortage and in an effort to not exceed capacity, transportation would be offered for K-6 students only.

Ms. Cresta explained the district will transport students who live more than 2 miles from school. To begin the year, just over two hundred students are eligible to ride the bus with a wait list of thirty nine (39) students. Two busses will be utilized to cover three (3) routes and the district is looking into how to adjust the routes for two drivers until an additional driver can be hired. She reminded the committee that adjusted bus routes will be posted to the transportation section of the website.

d. COVID Contact Tracing Update

Superintendent Buckey displayed flowcharts from DESE which were created to help better understand the process for symptomatic testing and quarantine guidelines.

Lead Nurse, Deanna McMahon clarified the contact tracing process with the Town and reminded the committee members that the testing program is in place to help keep schools open for in-person learning and encouraged students and staff to register.

A discussion about the qualifications for the “Test and Stay” program occurred and quarantine considerations for the guidelines for close contacts depending upon vaccination status was revisited.

It was mentioned that the consent to opt into the program would be posted to the website and go out in the Superintendent’s weekly update.

#### **IV. Finance and Organizational Support**

a. COVID Expenditures Update

Ms. Cresta explained that the district has expended the 2.3 million dollars of the COVID relief funds.

A report will be due to the state soon and more up to date numbers will be shared after the report submission. It was mentioned that the district will be expecting the ESSER III grant funds in October and a committee member requested a thorough breakdown of what the funds will be used for.

Mr. Harris inquired about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds coming to the Town requesting that a conversation begin with the Town regarding funding that could be allocated to the schools for infrastructure needs.

A discussion about the needs of the schools took place and members agreed that a specific list of needs be shared with the Town to help support future requests for funds.

b. Schedules

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to accept the schedule of bills in the amount of \$3,957,660.55 which 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. Barron, Mr. Harris, Ms. Fox-all in favor

## **V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items**

### **a. School Committee Communication and Outreach**

Ms. Gold started a conversation on how the committee could be more visible and available to community members. A discussion about rotating member office hours took place. Although no formal vote was taken, it was agreed that office hours would be welcomed and forums could be held in the future on an as needed basis on a focused topic if the committee felt the need.

Ms. Fox voiced her concern about two committee members meeting for office hours and requested that the committee check in with the Attorney General's office for clarification on how to proceed. Ms. Gold recommended bringing ideas back to the committee at an upcoming meeting.

### **b. School Committee Goals**

Ms. Gold reminded the committee that they would be evaluating themselves on the goals they set for themselves last year. She requested that committee members return the evaluation form she will send to the Superintendent's Assistant by 10/12 which will then be compiled.

It was also mentioned that committee goals should also be revisited and that members should bring their thoughts for additional goals or adjustment to existing goals to the next meeting.

### **c. Lucretia and Joseph Brown School Building Update**

Mr. Harris shared drone video footage of the playground and garden area of the new elementary school. Mr. Henry Christensen was commended for his assistance with the video footage.

- Final flooring is being installed
- Final painting is being completed
- A thorough cleaning is also being completed

## **VI. Closing Business**

### **a. New Business**

Ms. Taylor requested that subcommittee meeting dates be shared so they could be posted to the website.

### **b. Correspondence**

None

### **c. Adjournment**

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm.

Materials Included:

Memorandum-Park and Recreation

Custodian Contract 2021-2024

Policy EBCFA-Face Coverings

Superintendent Updates

Schedule of Bills

School Committee Goals

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved February 17, 2022