

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday September 23, 2021
7:00pm

Zoom Recording ID 839 3363 2920 & Password 530729

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83933632920?pwd=NnZwa3JGZEFDNFFQVExxVkc3YTRQUT09>

Members Present: Sarah Gold, Emily Barron, David Harris
Members Absent: Meagan Taylor
Remote Participants: Sarah Fox

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance
Dan Bauer, High School Principal

I. Initial Business and Public Comment

- a. Call to Order
Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
- b. Commendations
Mr. Harris commended all district staff for supporting the transition back to full time in person learning.
- c. Student Representative-Yasen Colon
 - The high School Open House will be 9/30 from 6-8:30pm
 - The high school recently welcomed exchange students and new band teacher
 - Class of 2025 elections will take place on 9/29
 - ALICE training occurred during the new magic blocks on 9/15
 - A club fair was scheduled the previous day during magic block
 - The first PCO meeting was held on 9/13
 - The North Shore Rovers will visit MHS on Saturday
 - The first home football game will be Friday against North Andover
 - The Day “0”, a day of volunteer service for freshmen will be on 10/13.
sophomores and juniors can prepare for the PSATs or participate in the day of service and seniors will have the opportunity for a day of college preparation with a focus on future planning
 - A Holocaust Symposium is scheduled 10/13
 - The high school SAC will meet on Thursday at 3pm beginning on 10/7
 - The Senior Class is working on a fall event and planning early for prom and end of year events
- d. Public Comment
No public comment

II. Superintendent Report

- a. High School Updates-Principal Daniel Bauer
 - Recognized three National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists Timothy Clay, Laurence Earhardt and Jeffrey Lederman and commended six other students Alexis Earp, Julia Greenway, Ella Kramer, Grace Miller, Anne Sheridan and Brooke Wager.
 - The guidance suite is undergoing remodeling to become a college and career center
 - The Innovative Pathway Planning Grant in the amount of \$24,300 is available and designed to provide opportunities to align curriculum for student success after graduation.
 - The After Dark Program is a Partnership with Essex Tech. Currently four (4) students are enrolled and bussed to the school in afternoons where they will receive over 900 hours of technical training
 - As mentioned by the student representative, Day “0”, a day of service is scheduled for 10/13

- To help meet the time on learning requirement, study hall during the final block will be removed beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.
- b. Superintendent District Updates
Prior to discussing the dashboard metrics, Superintendent Buckey provided an update on the discussion with the Town regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He also mentioned that a Superintendent hosted coffee is scheduled for Friday September 24th at 8:30am at the high school.

Superintendent Buckey also informed the committee of a recent TikTok challenge encouraging students to vandalize bathrooms and reminded community members to educate their children regarding the use of social media.

Dashboard metrics

It was mentioned that COVID positive cases would be updated to a dashboard for tracking by the lead nurse. The vaccination rates per building were shared and a conversation regarding the start date for large scale testing took place.

- c. Planning for Success Update
Superintendent Buckey thanked Ruth Gilbert for leading the team through the Planning for Success Process which helped identify the areas of improvement pertaining to 1) Teaching and Learning 2) Professional Culture 3) Diversity Equity and Inclusion 4) Technology 5) Facilities and Operations. The objectives for each area of improvement were mentioned and the initiatives the administration anticipates accomplishing by June of 2021 were also shared. It was noted that the initiatives would act as a guide in developing the FY23 budget.
- d. Superintendent 2021-2022 School Year Goals
Superintendent Buckey shared his SMART goals for the 2021-2022 school year. He shared a presentation specifying the four goal areas consisting of two district improvement goals, one professional practice goal and a student learning goal.

Ms. Gold requested that each goal be clearly identified to the standard it applies to when providing updates to the committee. Ms. Fox requested a budget goal to which Ms. Barron noted that a budget focused goal was listed under the professional practice goal, goal number 2.

III. Finance and Organizational Support

- a. Schedule of Bills
Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$2,988,679.80. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 4-0.

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

IV. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items

- a. Policy EBCFA Face Coverings Discussion
Due to COVID positive cases continuing to rise even with masking and social distancing guidelines being followed, it was recommended by Superintendent Buckey to extend the mask mandate until November 1st. Although no formal vote was taken, it was agreed that no other information was available to decide otherwise. It was also noted that as the policy states, "the policy remains in place until rescinded."

A conversation regarding increasing COVID positive numbers, state guidelines, and the option to apply for DESE waivers to go mask optional in relation to the percent of vaccinated populations/buildings took place.

- b. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates
- A budget meeting was held on Tuesday 9/21. Budget subcommittee meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every month in the mornings before 9am.

- The Facilities Subcommittee will meet the first Monday of the month with the first meeting scheduled for 10/4/21.
- The Policy Subcommittee will meet the first Tuesday of the month meeting in person at 8:15am
- Ms. Fox requested that a safety meeting be scheduled in the near future and Ms. Gold mentioned also scheduling a wellness meeting.
- A walk through of the new elementary school will take place the following day and a certificate of occupancy is expected. Staff will move items to the new elementary school on Saturday 10/2 and Saturday 10/9. Staff will be able to enter the building on 10/4 and the first day for students will be 10/13/21. Mr. Harris shared that a ribbon cutting will take place on 10/17.
- A photo of the interior of the media center/library in the new school was shared.

Ms. Fox voiced her interest in joining the K-3 planning group and sought committee support.

c. Subcommittee Meeting Dates Discussion

This agenda item was discussed under the updates item.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

Ms. Barron inquired about school committee self-evaluation submissions and the next steps for compiling. Ms. Gold shared that not all committee members submitted the evaluations and that due to the delay, the compilation would need to be revisited at a future meeting.

Ms. Fox shared that WBUR was hosting an essay contest for school age students entitled “In Their Own Words” through October 1st. The contest was COVID focused.

b. Correspondence

Ms. Gold shared a piece of correspondence from a parent of an elementary student sharing the impact mask wearing has on classrooms and close contacts after a recent experience with a COVID positive case. She noted that the parent references the positive impact the mitigation protocols play in lessening the spread of the virus.

Ms. Gold also shared an email from Kimberly Grad from the Marblehead Library inquiring about the use of the Coffin School as an interim library space when the library would undergo renovations in late winter of 2022. It was mentioned that Ms. Grad would be invited to join the committee for a future meeting to further discuss the request.

Ms. Gold also reminded the committee of the plan to discuss a facilities MOA with the Town.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.

Materials Included:

High School Memo

Superintendent’s Memo

Mask Recommendation Memo

Planning for Success PfS Outline

Superintendent’s Goals

Schedule of Bills

Policy EBCFA-Face Coverings

Facilities Assessment

Abbot Public Library Correspondence

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

Approved February 17, 2022