

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

Zoom Recording ID 819 5486 0919 & Password 343421

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81954860919?pwd=dGRyTkYxcitaa01uNXNvV0s4UkNzZz09>

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Stepehn Kwiatek, Director of Technology
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Deanna McMahan, Lead Nurse
Joseph Griffin, COVID Coordinator Nurse

I. Initial Business and Public Comment

a. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7pm.

b. Commendations

- Ms. Gold recognized the custodians for their work with assisting staff with moves from other buildings to the Brown School.
- Ms. Fox commended nurses for longer hours and teachers for moving locations with “joy and grace.”

c. Student Representative-Yasen Colon

- The Open House on 9/30 went well
- SAT testing was held on 10/2
- Class pictures and a bus evacuation drill took place yesterday and went well
- The Acapella group recently held auditions
- Team Harmony, a club focused on ending bias and discrimination held their first meeting the day prior
- The National Green School Society has been collecting clothing for a clothing swap
- The first math meet was held earlier that day
- The Best Buddies hosted an event with the girls soccer team as well
- A sport update was provided and teams were commended for recent wins
- The seniors will have their fall formal in the gym due to COVID restrictions
- Prom will be held at the new event space at Fenway Park

d. Public Comment

- Scott Solberg of Ramsay Rd. reminded the community that things are still a struggle and to remember to remain positive while continuing to support staff along with students

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Minutes- 4/1/2021 and 4/8/2021

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 4/1/2021 and 4/8/2021. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Fox requested that typos be addressed and some heading s that were missing be added.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes with requested edits, 5-0 all in favor. Ms. Gold, Mr. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox and Ms. Baron-all yes

III. Superintendent Report

a. Planning for Success Technology Update-Stephen Kwiatek

Stephen Kwiatek, The Director of Technology shared the two main goals of the technology department will be to:

- 1) Develop a comprehensive long-term technology plan
- 2) Focus on additional support for staff and students via the technology integration specialist

It was mentioned that a district wide committee would be created to review current technology and make a multi-year cycles plan to replace and upgrade equipment and software.

Topics for discussion included how to integrate STEAM programs amongst grade levels and the use of 1:1 devices across buildings. Ms. Fox requested that a committee member be represented on the committee when it is formed.

Mr. Harris commended the department for securing the ECF grant around \$300k which will help to purchase about 600 new Chromebooks and 300 ipads for students.

b. Superintendent District Updates

Superintendent Buckey explained that he updated his SMART goals to align his goals to the evaluation rubric so the committee could more easily understand which focus areas were associated with specific goals.

Superintendent Buckey provided the following updates:

- Adjustments to the COVID dashboard
- Automated messaging linking families to COVID protocols when a positive case is suspected
- The Brown School opening-The first day for students will be October 13th with a ribbon cutting On October 17th from 2-4pm.
- The Safety Committee will meet on October 13th at 11:30am
- The Wellness Committee will meet on October 15th at 11:30am
- ARPA funds-A prioritized list will be worked on and shared with the Town Administrator
- Director of Human Resources staffing update-Ms. Cassie Bruner started earlier that week
- The counseling center will begin a series of workshops focusing on supporting the needs of staff and families. A presentation is scheduled for October 19th at 6:30pm.

c. Superintendent 2021-2022 School Year Goals

Superintendent Buckey shared that under his SMART goal number 2, language was added to further specify working with the school committee and the budget subcommittee to focus on creating a needs based budget, which would assist in delivering an “exemplary educational curriculum.”

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept the Superintendent goals for the 2020-2021 school year which was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Mr. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Fox and Ms. Barron-all yes.

IV. Finance and Organizational Support

a. FY21 Closeout

Ms. Cresta provided an update on the end of the year close out sharing that some final year-end adjustments would still need to be finalized with the Town. It was explained that a total operating budget of \$40, 461,420 was expended out of \$40, 521,000. She noted that \$150,000 was used to prepay special education out of district tuition. A list of the total balances in all revolving accounts as of June 30th was provided and a more detailed revolving fund report was shared.

Members of the committee asked clarifying questions regarding the use of one time funding to fund recurring needs, the use of kindergarten tuition funds and the use of grant funds to assist in funding the new math curriculum. Ms. Taylor requested clarification on the total remaining FY21 budget to which Ms. Cresta confirmed she would be sharing a finalized updated version as soon as the final adjustments with the Town were made.

- b. COVID expenditures and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
Ms. Cresta provide an update on COVID expenditures noting that not much had changed since the end of the school year when she last reported. She did share that funds have been used for outdoor tents, to hire a COVID Coordinator nurse and to pay some additional HVAC bills.

It was mentioned that the ESSER III grant funds for \$796K would be available to use. The results of a survey regarding the options for the state mandated use of the grant funds was shared and the results indicated the funds should be spent on learning supports/learning loss above other categories followed by mental health. Ms. Cresta explained that the administrative and leadership team would plan on utilizing the ESSER grant funds to fund 1) full day kindergarten 2) tutoring services 3) afterschool and summer programs and 4) the credit recovery program. A total \$562,000 would be put towards learning loss. Ms. Cresta also explained that \$105k would be used for mental health supports including professional development for teachers and emergency health services.

- c. Schedules

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$197, 806.94. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 4-0-1.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Harris, Ms. Barron-all yes
Ms. Fox-abstained

V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items

- a. COVID Mitigation Protocols

An update regarding how the test and stay program has been going was shared. Superintendent Buckley informed the committee that about fifty (50) % of students were enrolled in the test and stay program across the district. It was recommended that the nurses create an informative video to help dissipate misinformation about the testing procedure.

A conversation about the potential need for additional nursing staff took place as it was mentioned that the CiC health was unable to provide the staffing support that was anticipated. After a brief discussion, MS. Gold explained that the Superintendent would work with the lead and COVID coordinator nurses to determine next steps at which time the committee would rejoin the conversation if there were budget implications that may require a vote.

Ms. Fox made a motion for the committee to adopt a policy for classroom level notifications for COVID positive cases.

Ms. Taylor spoke against voting for a motion to create a policy that had not yet been considered by the policy committee and discussed with the Superintendent.

The motion was not seconded and Ms. Taylor requested that the record reflect that it was not in the best interest of the committee to go against procedures and consider new policies or policy changes that had not yet been reviewed by administrators, health professionals or legal counsel.

- b. School Committee Evaluations and Goals

Ms. Gold explained that Ms. Barron had taken the self-evaluation totals and tallied them into a compilation to help determine areas of strengths and improvements. Although no formal vote was taken, it was decided that the committee would revisit the compilation at the next meeting when the committee could revisit their goals and goal suggestions.

- c. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- The Village SAC was held earlier that day and there is a need for lunch paraprofessionals at the Village School.
- The Board of Selectmen and Fincom met Monday and the new finance committee members were recognized. Mr. Harris mentioned that the calendar for budget planning was being examined to determine if the process could begin earlier.
- A policy meeting was held Tuesday and recommended edits will be presented at a future meeting

- The high school SAC met earlier that day and a focus on social media use and educating students about messaging relating to racism and homophobia took place.
- Ms. Taylor requested that the regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings be added to the website
- Mr. Harris shared a video slideshow of the plan for the opening of the new Lucretia and Joseph Brown Elementary School including the date for the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place on October 17th. Final photos of the progress of the new move in ready elementary school were shared. Mr. Harris thanked all committee and community members involved with seeing the project through.

VI. Closing Business

a. New Business

None

b. Correspondence

Ms. Gold reminded the committee about the information they received about the presentation on the 19th as previously mentioned.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:23pm.

Materials Included:

Superintendent's Updates

Technology Update

Superintendent's smart Goals

FY21 Year-end financial Memo and Reports

Schedule of Bills

School Committee Goals

School Committee Self Evaluation

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved March 3, 2022