

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday March 3, 2022 at 7:00pm
Marblehead High School-Library**

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

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance and Operation
Merle Schell and Jennifer Jackson, SEPAC Co-Chairs
Dan Bauer, High School Principal

I. Initial Business

a. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She explained that the high school schedule update would be postponed while concerns that were raised earlier that afternoon at the school advisory council meeting be addressed prior to presenting.

b. Commendations

Mr. Harris commended the boys ski team for their MIAA Alpine Ski championship win on March 1st. He also recognized Kate Honos and Baxter Jennings for finishing in 1st and 2nd place in the Giant Slalom.

Ms. Gold commended the Swim and Dive team for finishing in 2nd place. She also congratulated the four students who attended the All-State Choir Competition.

c. Public Comment

Jonathan Letterman spoke in favor of having meeting material packets posted earlier than before the meetings to allow for thoughtful questions. He also spoke in favor of allowing the public to participate in meetings remotely.

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Minutes:

8/9/2021, 8/26/2021, 10/7/2021, 10/19/2021, 10/21/2021 and 10/28/2021.

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve the 8/9/2021 minutes first after Ms. Fox reminded her that herself and Ms. Taylor were not present at that meeting and would abstain from voting. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Barron and a roll call vote was taken with the motion passing 3-0-2.

Ms. Fox and Ms. Taylor-abstained

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

Ms. Gold asked for a second motion to approve the minutes from 8/26/2021, 10/7/2021, 10/19/2021, 10/21/2021 and 10/28/2021. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Barron and a roll call vote was taken with the motion passing 5-0.

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

III. Superintendent Report

a. Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Presentation

SEPAC Co-Chairs, Merle Schell and Jennifer Jackson shared recent survey results from parents and commended their secretary for compiling results. It was explained that survey results consisted of compiling data on the social emotional wellness of high school students. Concerns pertaining to anxiety, social skills and ADHD were highlighted. It was mentioned that SEPAC would be using the information to understand how to better support the student community.

It was also mentioned that SEPAC meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10am and on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Additional meetings are held each month during the lunch hour at 12pm with Student Services Director, Dr. Paula Donnelly.

A presentation on ableism would be held at the end of the month and the *Unsung heroes* event will be planned as a virtual event.

b. High School Updates-Principal, Dan Bauer

i) Schedules Update

Postponed

ii) Proposed Program of Studies changes 2022-2023 school year

Principal Bauer provided an update on the proposed program of studies for the 2022-2023 school year. He explained that he would provide a schedule update within two weeks at the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting.

The following program of study updates were shared:

- AP European History will be an option for the 2022-2023 school year and will be explained as part of the schedule update along with the 35 credits per year piece
- The *Essex After Dark Program* will be available for students interested in vocational educational opportunities focused on technical career paths.
- Advanced manufacturing pathway courses will be offered and is still in the development process
- RTI-Response to Intervention Program will be offered in math, English and science
- A college and career block will be added and the *Preparing for Life After High School* course will be eliminated
- Mindfulness electives will be offered during the new MAGIC block
- English electives will be offered
- Curriculum support blocks through the student services department will be available
- World language courses will have honors levels options

A series of clarifying questions relating to the MAGIC block, the Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program and honors level/advanced placement course offerings was discussed.

c. District Updates

i) FY23 budget update

Superintendent Buckey explained that due to the Town transitioning to a new Interim Town Administrator, limited additional progress towards the FY23 budget occurred since the last update. Conversations about the funding of out of district tuition costs were ongoing and the priorities have been confirmed with the leadership team. He shared that conversations with other school districts were scheduled to discuss their successful overrides. A budget subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday the 10th. The Town Finance Committee is expected to vote the school budget on March 28th with the public hearing scheduled for the 31st.

A current tracking sheet, confirmed list of priorities and an up to date budget summary sheet were all shared.

Ms. Gold voiced her support of the budget noting the amount of work that has gone into the override ask. Ms. Fox agreed with the choice of an override sharing it has been needed for many years. Ms. Fox spoke in favor of making some adjustments pertaining to advanced placement classes, a grant writer position, curriculum coaches and a DEI position.

A conversation about how a DEI Director would be involved in curriculum planning took place. Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy explained that job descriptions for the DEI position were being reviewed in preparation for the budget passing.

Ms. Fox requested that the budget hearing be held virtually on the 31st.

Prior to discussing the Town Report, the administrative team was excused from the rest of the meeting.

ii) Town Report Submission 2020-2021 school year

Superintendent Buckey mentioned that the Town Report was being submitted with contributions from the leadership team. Ms. Fox shared a few small corrections prior to submitting.

iii) Director of Food Services Position

The Director of food Services, Richard Kelleher will be retiring at the end of the school year and Superintendent Buckey and the committee commended him on his tenure sharing how missed he will be.

IV. Finance and Organizational Support

a. Monthly Financial Report with COVID Expenditures

Ms. Cresta informed the committee that the district had expended 45% of their operating budget. It was shared that deficits were expected in the out of district

tuition funds, which should be able to be covered from funds carried over from circuit breaker from the previous year. 65% of the substitute budget line has been utilized with a onetime COVID sick time reimbursement from the state, which will help to credit that account. 73% of the custodian overtime pay account has been used and deficits should be able to be covered from excess funds from the custodial salary accounts. Ms. Cresta also shared an update on the ESSER grant funds sharing that about \$480k of the grant III was still available to use for up to 2.5years.

When asked, Ms. Cresta shared that utility reserve funds were expected to kick in sometime in April.

b. Schedules

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$764,454.94. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes 5-0.

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

V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion Items

a. Protocol Review

Ms. Gold mentioned that following the protocols should be a goal for the remainder of the year as COVID had shifted priorities and roles a bit.

Ms. Taylor also reminded the committee that scheduling weekly meetings with the Superintendent was encouraged and beneficial.

b. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- Some final work was completed at the Brown School
- A building committee meeting is scheduled for the 24th with one last update
- Fence work will occur in the Spring
- Ms. Barron went to the racial justice team METCO presentation and METCO will begin a 2.0 program to focus on making the program better
- Ms. Barron shared that she has obtained the list of school owned properties so that the facilities subcommittee could move forward with the MOU with the Town
- Mr. Harris explained that through the recommendation of Gilbane, the district was going to apply to an accelerated repair plan through the MSBA for repair of the high school roof

VI. Closing Business

a. New Business

Ms. Fox inquired about owl cameras for hybrid meetings

b. Correspondence

c. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Materials Included:

Memorandum-High School Program of Studies

Budget tracking priorities and summary sheet

Town Report Submission

Memorandum-Financials Report as of 1.1.2022

Expenditure Report

Schedule of Bills

School Committee Protocols

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved May 19, 2022