

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday December 1, 2022
6:30pm
High School Library

Zoom Recording ID

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/96067789195?pwd=TIlxWUViVIR0STI3RmJkemNFTEExYQT09>

Members Present: Sarah Fox and Alison Taylor

Remote Participants: Sarah Gold and Meagan Taylor

Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Daniel Bauer, High School Principal
Matt Fox, Veterans Middle School Principal
Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance

I. Initial Business

- a. Ms. Fox called the meeting to Order at 6:30pm.
- b. Ms. Fox made a motion and vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purpose: purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation regarding payment of a former employee if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation of the public body and the chair so declares.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed, 4-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Alison Taylor, Ms. Meagan Taylor and Ms. Fox-all yes.

Executive Session

Meeting in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation regarding payment of a former employee with the intent to return to open session.

The Executive Session of the meeting adjourned at 6:59pm. A brief recess was taken and Ms. Fox began the open session of the meeting at 7:05pm.

c. Commendations

None.

d. Student Representative-Yasen Colon

- The Powderpuff game was held on 11/19. \$13, 000k was raised for charity
- The boys won their Thanksgiving game against Swampscott
- The senior class brunch was held on 11/20 to begin spirit week
- The Acapella annual concert was held on 11/22 and they will be caroling over the weekend
- The freshmen held a dodgeball fundraiser on 11/22
- The sophomore class distributed 91 pies on 11/22 from the Shubie's fundraiser they held
- The Fashion Club is holding a winter gear drive until 12/5
- Jefferson Quorum, a community service club is holding a toy drive for Pathways for Children until 12/14
- Salem State is expanding their dual enrollment program
- All students recently attended a Substance Youth Prevention Theatre performance
- The sophomore class is planning a fundraiser for December
- The seniors are scheduling meetings next week to start planning for their senior show

e. Public Comment

None

II. Superintendent Report

- a. Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, MCAS Testing Update
Veterans Middle School MCAS Update-Principal Matthew Fox
High School MCAS Update-Principal Daniel Bauer

An overview of grade level test administration since the 2019 school year was shared. The growth percentiles per content area for the 2022 school year was summarized noting which content areas per grade level resulted in either an increase or decline in scores.

A sound connectivity issue caused an interruption in the presentation for about four minutes until the audio issue was resolved. A discussion about continuing to address and monitor learning loss appropriately per grade level took place.

A discussion about how school start times contribute to student productivity and the daily schedule also took place. It was shared that Thought Exchange results surveying student start times would be shared at a future meeting.

Ms. Fox took the meeting out of order to address a new business item pertaining to an out of state field trip in New York in March for the Model United Nations Conference. Ms. Fox explained that she received the information earlier that day and would like to bring the approval before the committee so the students could begin fundraising for the trip.

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the overnight trip for March 15th in New York. The motion was moved by Alison Taylor and seconded by Sarah Gold. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes, 4-0. Ms. Gold, Ms. Alison Taylor, Ms. Meagan Taylor, Ms. Fox-all yes

Ms. Alison Taylor recommended that the students attend a future meeting to share their experience

- b. District Updates

- A current Thought exchange will be open to the community until December 14th
Committee members inquired if the results should be delivered sooner for analyzing.
- Dr. Buckey reminded Ms. Fox about the request to have an MASC/MASS speaker present to parents and staff in December or a future date that is most convenient with scheduling conflicts.

III. Finance Organizational Support

- a. Monthly Financial Update

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Michelle Cresta provided a first quarter report with monthly narrative updates. It was shared that about 18.7% of the budget had been spent by the end of October. The following highlights were shared:

- Vacancies in the areas of special education, paraprofessionals, custodians and cafeteria workers still exist
- The substitutes and custodian accounts should be monitored closely throughout the year
- Due to the increase in rising utility costs, the anticipated remaining yearly utilities costs will be included in an upcoming report
- 48% of the unemployment budget has been spent as of the end of October which is expected to go down
- The shortage of bus drivers and escalation in fuel costs has caused contracted out of district special education transportation costs to increase causing the projected cost to be about \$450k over budget

A discussion about the importance of grant funding for future budget planning took place. Further discussion about operating vacancies and the costs associated with contracted services to temporarily fill positions also took place.

b. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$ 457,650.01. The motion was moved by Alison Taylor and seconded by Sarah Gold. The motion passes 4-0 after a roll call vote. Ms. Gold, Ms. Alison Taylor, Ms. Meagan Taylor and Ms. Fox-all yes.

IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. School Committee Budget Priorities and Budget Calendar Discussion

Ms. Fox noted that budget priorities and a calendar were put together after the budget subcommittee meeting scheduled the day before. Ms. Fox explained some meeting dates needed to be finalized with the Town and that a finalized calendar should be sent out within the next few days.

It was also mentioned that budget leadership presentations would be held early in January.

Ms. Gold inquired about voting on the budget priorities as a committee prior to sharing such priorities with the leadership team. Ms. Meagan Taylor agreed stating that she would prefer more time than that evening to review the priorities.

Ms. Fox tabled the vote until the next meeting.

b. School Committee Member Vacancy Update

Ms. Fox explained that due to scheduling conflicts, the interviews for the vacant member seat would need to be rescheduled. It was mentioned that Monday, December 12th was suggested as a backup date.

Ms. Gold and Ms. Meagan Taylor spoke in favor of honoring the original date selected and advertised. After a brief discussion, no alternate date was determined.

Ms. Fox explained that out of the eleven applicants, one was not a registered voter and would be disqualified.

Ms. Gold requested reviewing the timestamped information in support of confirming the requirements of the application process. A conversation about technicalities due to formatting and technology concerns took place.

Ms. Taylor spoke in favor of following parameters for submission to ensure the process is fair and equitable for all. Ms. Fox confirmed that she would relay committee concerns to the Town.

A discussion about scheduling an alternative interview date was revisited. It was decided that interviews on the 15th in place of the committee meeting, on the 19th or after the holidays would be preferable.

c. Next Forum Topic and Date Discussion

It was mentioned that a Special Education lead forum would be preferable as the next topic item. Ms. Meagan Taylor also mentioned speaking with SEPAC to coordinate dates with them.

d. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- Ms. Fox mentioned that the Brown School project was being closed out and mentioned inviting former committee member, David Harris to a future meeting to provide a final update.
- Ms. Fox also noted an email that came in from the library regarding roof leaks at the Eveleth school to which she noted the terms of the lease and the memorandum of understanding.

- Ms. Meagan Taylor requested that the facilities subcommittee work on prioritizing a list for capital requests.
- Ms. Taylor also spoke in favor of implementing set schedules for subcommittee meetings.
- Ms. Gold requested that the facilities subcommittee also review school owned properties in consideration of warrants to which Ms. Fox confirmed would be added to a future facilities subcommittee agenda.
- Ms. Fox mentioned holding onto school owned properties in consideration of potential expansion needs.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

- Ms. Gold questioned how news outlets obtained names of school committee applicants before the full committee had received the information. Ms. Fox explained that the information was turned around as quickly as possible. She further shared that she verbally shared applicant names towards the end of the day around the same time the names were being posted to the website in a redacted format.
- After a discussion, committee members agreed that prioritizing public inquiries before the committee is informed remains a concern.

b. Correspondence

- An email from the library regarding the Eveleth facility was previously mentioned under the subcommittees section.
- The applications for the vacant committee member seat were also submitted and posted to the website.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Fox adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

Materials Included:

MCAS Results Presentation-High School and Middle School

Monthly Financial Report as of October 2022

Expenditure Report through September 2022

Schedule of Bills

Budget Directives from 11.30 Budget Subcommittee Meeting

School Committee Member Applications

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved January 5, 2023