

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday February 16, 2023**  
**7:00pm**  
Marblehead High School- Library  
2 Humphrey St.

Zoom Recording ID  
: [https://marbleheadschoo-  
org.zoom.us/j/91808371990?pwd=aTA3d2U5eEFaMWMwcFAxcEI5OVVNQT09](https://marbleheadschoo-<br/>org.zoom.us/j/91808371990?pwd=aTA3d2U5eEFaMWMwcFAxcEI5OVVNQT09)

**Members Present:** Sarah Fox, Sarah Gold, Thomas Mathers, and Alison Taylor

**Remote Participants:** John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
Meagan Taylor

**Also Present :** High School Principal, Daniel Bauer  
High School Assistant Principal, Michele Carlson  
High School School Counselor, Christine Chaykowski  
High School Student, Tyler Earp  
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent  
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

**I. Initial Business**

**a. Call to Order**

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**b. Commendations**

Ms. Alison Taylor commended the Brown School on their first winter concert

Ms. Gold commended the high school students for getting through their first set of mid-terms in a long time

Ms. Fox thanked the leadership team for their work with putting together budgeting requests that meet the needs of the students

**c. Student Representative-Yasen Colon**

- The class of 2023 recently raised \$3,000 for prom and other events
- Mid-terms took place on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter began on January 30<sup>th</sup> and report cards for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter were released on February 8<sup>th</sup>
- The Acepella group recently competed at an international competition
- An elective day was held at the high school on February 8<sup>th</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- A curriculum night was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Freshmen held fundraisers on February 8<sup>th</sup> with Chipotle and on February 14<sup>th</sup> with Stowaway Sweets
- Sophomores sold semiformal tickets in February for their March semiformal dance scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Sophomores and juniors held a Valentine's Day donut fundraiser
- The planning for senior project is underway
- A Sports update was provided

d. Public Comment

Dr. Jess Benedetto of Bradlee Rd referenced an article she read in the Current newspaper pertaining to ThoughtExchange survey results focusing on transportation. She spoke against the data results shared.

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Approval of Minutes-12/15/2022 and 1/5/2023

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 12/15/2022 and 1/5/2023. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Ms.

The motion passes, 4-0-1.

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

Mr. Mathers-abstained

b. Bournedale 6th Grade Field Trip

Village School Principal, Ms. Murphy provided some background information about the annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bournedale trip.

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the 6th grade overnight Bournedale trip on 5/23-5/26. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Mr. Mathers. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

III. Superintendent Report

a. Marblehead High School-Greenhouse Eagle Scout Project Update

16-year-old junior student, Tyler Earp gave an update on the fundraising for his Eagle Scout Greenhouse Project sharing that he has raised about \$43,000 out of a goal of \$70,000. He shared the following additional updates:

- The conservancy aspect will be completed over the summer
- The greenhouse will begin to be manufactured within the next few weeks and arrive in August
- An auction will take place at the Landing on March 7<sup>th</sup>
- To learn more, visit [mhsgreehouse.org](http://mhsgreehouse.org)
- Donations are tax deductible and go directly to the high school parent council organization
- He will return in the Spring with a construction update

b. Metropolitan Council for Opportunity, METCO Program Update

METCO Director, Caja Johnson provided some METCO related updates focusing on enrollment, staffing, events and the plan for the next school committee meeting scheduled at METCO headquarters. The following updates were shared:

- Weekly recurring meetings are scheduled with administrative members, the parent council organizations and with other METCO staff at METCO headquarters
- Time has been spent in other area districts shadowing fellow directors and a leadership retreat was recently attended at Gillette stadium
- Enrollment numbers were shared and it was mentioned that the program planned to increase the METCO enrollment by about 20 students for the 2023-2024. The referrals in process are for 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders
- A staffing update was provided, and it was mentioned that the program is looking to welcome a student intern for the 2023-2024 school year
- Spaces specifically for METCO students have been setup at both the high school and Village Schools

- The Cultural Feast is scheduled for 5/19 for 6pm at the high school
- A middle school retreat is being planned and the high school retreat is scheduled for April in Norwood
- There will be a senior sendoff scheduled for 5/20 at 6pm.
- 20% of proceeds from purchased METCO clothing and items will go to the program
- Transportation and access to extracurricular activities remain as areas to focus on for improvement

Ms. Taylor requested to be the liaison for the METCO program.

Superintendent Buckey commended Ms. Johnson on invigorating the program in less than the full year she has been in the position.

c. Proposed Program of Studies Changes for the 2023-2024 school year

High School Principal, Daniel Bauer explained that planning for the program of studies adjustments begins early in the fall. He shared a list of the new courses, edits to existing courses and noted the courses being eliminated. Assistant Principal, Ms. Carlson and School Counselor, Ms. Chaykowski were also in attendance.

After some discussion pertaining to specific courses occurred, Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the proposed programs of studies for the 2023-2024sy as presented. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Mr. Mathers. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

d. District Updates

The following updates were shared:

Principal Search Process and Timeline for Marblehead High School

- The first meeting will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the high school
- Committee representatives have been selected and a list of the members were named
- The deadline to apply is the end of the following week
- There will be one week to review applicants, select finalist and then schedule interviews which are anticipated to take place the week of 3/20

Chairman Fox spoke in favor of appointing herself as a school committee representative on the search committee. After a discussion, it was recommended that Mr. Mathers be appointed to the search committee for the high school principal as he was the only member without students in the District. Although there was no formal vote taken, Mr. Mathers obliged to the will of the committee for the opportunity.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

Superintendent Buckey spoke about a memo he shared with the committee regarding the FY24 potential reductions to meet preliminary Town appropriations. It was explained that he led the administrative team to identify areas where reductions could be made to meet a \$1.8million increase from the FY23 budget. The potential reductions mentioned would include reductions across five bargaining units and total about thirty-three positions. It was mentioned that items such as the \$110, 000 cost of the third year of the new math program was accounted for in the roll forward budget. He reminded the committee that the budget process is iterative and will most likely change.

Topic for discussion included the process for earmarked monies for insurance from cut positions, unemployment related costs, savings in consideration of retirements and the student teacher ratio should reductions in staffing occur. Ms. Cresta did clarify that about half of the number of the potential list of reductions shared currently represents vacancies.

a. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$887,533.44. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Ms. Mathers. The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

V. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. Memorandum of Understanding -Marblehead Park and Recreation

Ms. Fox asked for a motion to look through and accept the amended version of the MOU between the Recreation and Parks Department and Marblehead Public Schools as presented. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Mr. Mathers.

Superintendent Buckey explained that the department would like to hold a meeting with the school committee so that both boards are in unanimous consent of the proposed changes.

A discussion about contracting landscapers took place.

After a discussion, Ms. Fox asked that the committee vote the MOU. The original motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

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

b. FY24 Budget Planning and Discussion

The FY24 budget planning was discussed under the finance section. Ms. Fox noted the importance of prioritizing a list of the budget asks. She also mentioned the need for scheduling more budget focused meetings in the coming weeks.

c. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

i. Facilities Subcommittee-Property List Discussion and Recommendations

Ms. Fox went over the list of properties owned by the school. She noted that the Gerry school is still listed with the assessors as owned by the schools but is not. A conversation about the condemned Coffin School building and liability took place. Further discussion about holding onto certain buildings to house the older student population or to assist with revenue streams also took place.

After discussion, it was decided that due to the involved process with the Town that is required to turn properties back over to the Town, further review of the list of properties would be deferred at this time.

It was decided that Ms. Taylor would become the METCO liaison and Mr. Mathers would join the Policy Subcommittee with Ms. Gold.

Ms. Fox made a motion to appoint Mr. Mathers to fill the Vice-Chair position. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Gold.

When asked by a committee member if the Superintendent felt the need for a Vice-Chair, Dr. Buckey noted the importance of good governance and working collaboratively which a backup Chairperson would support.

The motion passes, 4-1 all in favor. Ms. Gold, Ms. Alison Taylor, Ms. Meagan Taylor, and Ms. Fox all yes. Mr. Mathers-no.

VI. Closing Business

a. New Business

Mr. Mathers will be the representative on the search committee for the high school principal.

It was mentioned that Fincom pushed their hearing out until April 11<sup>th</sup> but that the school would need to hold their budget hearing three weeks prior to that. Ms. Fox recommended working offline to coordinate for the last week in March.

b. Correspondence

Ms. Fox mentioned a letter sent from a community member to the administration office that the Superintendent's Assistant will add to the drive for review.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Fox adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm

*Materials Included:*

*Memorandum-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bournedale Field Trip*

*Greenhouse Project Presentation*

*Memorandum-METCO Program Updates*

*Program of Studies Presentation*

*High School Principal Search Timeline*

*Schedule of Bills*

*Memorandum of Understanding-Park and Recreation*

*Memorandum-FY24 Potential Reductions*

*School Owned Properties List*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Lisa Dimier, Secretary*

*Marblehead School Committee*

*Approved March 16, 2023*