

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting  
Thursday November 16, 2023  
7:00PM

Members Present: Sarah Fox, Brian Ota, Jennifer Shaeffer, Alison Taylor. Meaghan Taylor

Also Present: Dr. Theresa McGuinnes-Interim Superintendent, Michelle Cresta-Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Julia Ferreira-Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

I. Initial Business

a. Call to Order

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

b. Commendations

- Brian Ota would like to commend our Custodians, Bus Drivers, Nurses, Cafeteria staff, Secretaries, Para's and Tutors, Specials Teachers, Physical Education Teachers, ELA Teachers, School Psychologists, Counselors, Social Workers, Speech Therapists, and last but not least our General and Special Education Teachers
- Brian would like to thank all of us for the work that we do for our students and staff
- Sarah Fox states that she has such "deep gratitude" for all of our staff as we head into Thanksgiving
- Jonathan Heller and Sally Shevory the Co-Chairs of the MEA would like to commend all of our educators and support staff for their hard work and dedication to keeping Marblehead Public Schools students safe healthy and successful
- Alison Taylor would like to wish the Marblehead Youth Hockey team good luck in their tournament against St. Lambert in Canada

c. Public Comment

- Mary McCarriston-Pine Cliff Drive Marblehead
  - Mary has been making phone calls to other cities and towns regarding the Flag Policy
  - She spoke to a Lawyer regarding the parent removal of the flag in the MHS Cafeteria
- Tania (get last name from last week's minutes)-Dorchester

- Tania would like to know if the School Committee has come up with a consequence for the removal of the flag
  - She would like to make sure that her son feels comfortable in school and at this time he does not feel comfortable
  - “Somebody needs to have some compassion for what is going on”
- Nyla Dubois-Green Street Marblehead
    - Nyla started by stating that she “feels awful that there are any kids who feel like taking down that flag was a gesture of racism”
    - She goes on to state that “the problem I see with the flags is that a flag may be a symbol of safety for one person it might be a symbol of something else for someone else”
    - Nyla states that she “doesn’t believe that the school should be an arbiter of who feels safe and who doesn’t”

d. Student Representative-Kat Piper

- High school entered Q2 on 11/13
- National Honors Society has resumed their tutoring program which pairs students with peer tutors in every subject
- The honor society is conducting a Food Drive for Thanksgiving
- Acapella is holding its annual “Sing Free or Die Hard” concert on Tuesday 11/21 at 7 PM
- The Animal Wellness Club is running a Pet Supply Collection Bin which they will donate to the Northeast Animal Shelter
- The Marblehead Drama Club will be holding auditions for the student written play “It’s about Pirates and Nothing Else” on 12/04
- There will be a Pep Rally at the High School on 11/22 in preparation for the Thanksgiving football game
- The sophomore class is selling raffle tickets for a chance to pie a teacher in the face at the Pep Rally
- The Juniors have started looking for items to sell off for the annual Junior Class Auction and they have also been selling sweatpants, tank tops and headbands to show their spirit for the Powderpuff game on Saturday 11/25
- The powderpuff Senior girls have been participating in Spirit Week in preparation for their big game
- The Senior will have their potluck brunch on 11/19
- Both Cross Country teams will be advancing to All Stages this Saturday 11/25

- Football is preparing for its annual Thanksgiving game on Thanksgiving at 10AM

a. District Updates-Dr. Theresa McGuinness

- The Veterans school was celebrated in the newspaper today for their MCAS results
  - They are currently 30th in the ranking for all of MA. The DOE provided this recognition
  - 65% of the students scoring above average or exceeding in Mathematics and 66% in reading
- Dr. McGuinness refers to a Memorandum that was added to the School Committee Agenda that provides a bit of an introduction into who Dr. McGuinness is and how she is beginning to lead the district at this time and includes her “Entry Plan”
- Budget Update will be provided by Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cresta
- Dr. McGuinness references the “New Superintendent Induction Program” which is a partnership between the Department of Education and the MA Association of School Committees
  - This program ensures that there is support and strategy development done with coaching
  - Jane Tremblay will be Dr. McGuinness’s coach and she will be joining the next School committee meeting
- Tuesday was Ruby Bridges “Walk to School Day” for Village, Glover and Brown Schools
- FY 25 Budget Status Update-Michelle Cresta
  - Starting the process for the FY25 Budget process
  - Packets should be provided to principals in the next day or two and returned by 12/18/23 for Finance Team review
  - The intent is to have Budget books to the Committee by 01/12/24
  - The Town has requested that we provide them with two budgets
    - One for “Level Services” and one for “Reduced Services”
    - “Reduced Services” maintains the current level of funding that we have in FY 2024
  - The final budget recommendation will be brought to the School Committee before it goes to the Finance Committee for approval

III. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Schedule of Bills (vote)

*Motion to approve the identified schedule of bills totaling \$768,417.87.*

Moved by Ms. Shaeffer, Seconded by Mr.Ota

Ms. Meagan Taylor, Ms Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Shaeffer and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 5-0

b. Approval of Minutes (vote)

*Motion to approve the minutes from 08/24/23 pending the edits mentioned*

Moved by Ms. Shaeffer, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Ms Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Shaeffer and Ms. Fox-All Yes with one abstention

Ms. Meagan Taylor abstained from the vote

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

*Motion to approve the minutes from 09/07/23 and 10/11/23*

Moved by Ms. Shaeffer, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Ms. Meagan Taylor, Ms Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Shaeffer and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passes 5-0

IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. Forum / Community Discussion Topics

- There will be a series of Public Community Forums in which there will be a discussion with the committee and the public
- The public will ask questions and the committee will answer them
- The first one the School Committee would like to have is on budget in the beginning of December

b. Approval of School Improvement Plans (Glover, Brown and Village Schools) (vote)

- Amanda Murphy-Village School Principal
  - Amanda goes through the improvement plans for the Village School
  - Plan can be found in the Agenda, Materials and Minutes section of [MarbleheadSchools.org](http://MarbleheadSchools.org)
- Mary Maxfield and Hope Doran
  - Mary and Hope go through the improvement plans for the Brown and Glover Schools
  - Plan can be found in the Agenda, Materials and Minutes section of [MarbleheadSchools.org](http://MarbleheadSchools.org)

*Motion to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented for the Glover School, the Lucretia and Joseph Brown School and the Village School*

Moved by Ms. Shaeffer, Seconded by Mr. Ota

Ms. Meagan Taylor, Ms Alison Taylor, Mr. Ota, Ms. Shaeffer and Ms. Fox-All Yes

A vote was taken and the motion passes 5-0

c. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates and Discussion

- Sarah Fox talks about the Conference attended and highlighted the workshops provided
- Policy Committee-Jennifer Shaeffer
  - The Policy Committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting
  - Jennifer would like to set up a meeting for after Thanksgiving

V. Closing Business

a. New Business-School Committee Announcements and Requests

- Sarah Fox requests information on AI and how we're using it in our school
- Sarah asks questions to Julia Ferreira about the program IReady
- Meagan Taylor references the list of priorities for the Interim Superintendent Role and when those priorities will be laid out for Dr. McGuinness

b. Correspondence

- None

Meeting is adjourned at 8:26 PM by School Committee Chair Ms. Fox

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison McMahon, Secretary  
Marblehead School Committee