



MARBLEHEAD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marblehead School Committee – Bargaining Subcommittee

9 Widger Road,
Marblehead, MA 01945
phone: 781.639.3140 x10114
email:schoolcommittee@marbleheadschoools.org

Sarah Fox
Committee Member

Jennifer Schaeffner
Committee Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2024

The Marblehead School Committee Bargaining Sub-committee (Sub-committee) was surprised to be told by the Marblehead Education Association (Union) today during our fifth bargaining session that the Union will not meet to bargain again until September following a June 11th scheduled session. The Sub-committee is currently negotiating five separate agreements and has made multiple offers of more than a dozen additional dates, all rejected by the Union. Bargaining did not begin until March 14th after repeated requests by the Sub-committee to start earlier in the year were rejected by the Union.

Town Administrator Thatcher Keezer was invited to join the bargaining team at today's meeting, however had to decline due to a scheduling conflict. The Sub-committee looks forward to having the Town Administrator join us at our next meeting on June 11th.

The Sub-committee provided a package offer for the Custodians, as it is the first contract to expire on June 30, 2024, having given a wage proposal on May 1. The proposal included a twenty percent increase in sick time, a market adjustment wage increase, the new benefit of paid parental leave, an enhanced bereavement leave, and a vacation buy back option. The offer also included a \$200 ratification payment per custodian if the contract is approved by the members on or before June 24, 2024.

The Sub-committee also made proposals for paid parental leave, applying to all parents, for other unionized employees represented by the Union. Currently, the contracts allow for up to twenty days of parental leave to be taken out of the employees' sick time. The current Sub-committee proposal offers up to ten days paid parental leave without deduction from the employee's sick time in addition to the current allowable leave.

Today's bargaining session came to a close after the Massachusetts Teachers Association representative Anthony Parolisi shouted an obscenity at the Sub-committee followed by shouting in self-proclaimed anger by union members stating the proposals provided were insulting.

The Sub-committee continues to be open to schedule more dates in hopes of coming to an agreement for all employees.