



MARBLEHEAD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marblehead School Committee – Bargaining Subcommittee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2024

The Marblehead School Committee Bargaining Sub-committee (Sub-committee) met with the Marblehead Education Association (Union) in a bargaining session today, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The MEA presented a new wage proposal which the Sub-committee dedicated significant time to costing out the proposal in order to determine the financial implications. This included a one-year contract combined with a consecutive three-year contract and contained a wage proposal with a cost of \$9,691,000 over the four-year period. The current MEA proposal would result in either significant staff reductions or a tax override in excess of 9% over current property taxes. It is important to note the cost is to cover Unit A (professional staff) alone and does not account for increases for the other four units.

The MEA presented the Sub-committee with “wage goals” on June 11<sup>th</sup>, strongly stating these were only goals. After multiple meetings over the summer the MEA finally confirmed on September 10<sup>th</sup> their “wage goals” were a formal wage proposal. The Sub-committee promptly provided a wage counter proposal at the next bargaining on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Sub-committee is receptive to a one-year contract with a consecutive three-year contract and is using this new structure to provide updated wage proposals at our meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The bargaining session ended when the MEA handed package proposals to the Sub-committee for Paraprofessionals, Permanent Substitutes, and Tutors, stating they were disappointed by the Sub-committee and were no longer willing to bargain further tonight. No new package proposal was provided by the MEA for Custodians.

The Department of Labor Relations did take jurisdiction of negotiations between the Sub-committee and the Custodians unit but asked the parties to meet again prior to their November 8<sup>th</sup> deadline to determine how much movement can be made prior to assigning a mediator.

The Sub-committee wishes to thank Alec Goolsby, Chair of the Finance Committee, for joining them for negotiations tonight. His presence is a positive example of the town and schools working collaboratively towards a solution that serves students, staff and the community as a whole.

The Sub-Committee was hopeful both parties would be able to reach an agreement tonight and continues to work towards this goal, maintaining their position that Marblehead Public Schools is an attractive employer as evidenced by our new administrations ability to quickly fill the majority of recent vacancies.

The committee is scheduled to meet again to bargain on October 8<sup>th</sup>.