



**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

**Thatcher Kezer**  
Town Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2024

The Marblehead School Committee Bargaining Sub-committee (Sub-committee) met with the Marblehead Education Association (Union) in a bargaining session today, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Sub-Committee presented the Union with updated proposals for Unit A, Paraprofessionals, Tutors and Permanent Substitutes at the start of the meeting which extended the benefit of enrollment of non-resident staff children to all units dependent on availability of space. The Union provided a revised Unit A proposal for paid leave, class sizes, and other items to the Sub-committee, however made no movement on their wage proposals.

The Sub-Committee and our Administrators deeply value our staff. However, the financial requests currently being presented by the Union are not something Marblehead has the revenue to fund. The School Committee is legally required to bring forth a balanced budget. Any additional funding requests above what the town currently is able to fund would need to be covered through reductions (the majority of which would be realized through staff lay-offs), an override, or a combination of both. The current proposal by the Union would result in an ask at the polls for an override that, if it fails, would trigger the lay-off of more than 15% of Marblehead school staff. While the Union asserts they are willing to take that chance, the Sub-committee cannot agree to a contract that has the potential to ultimately require layoffs of this magnitude.

The Sub-Committee is hopeful the Union will continue to work with us through the bargaining process to achieve a resolution that is equitable to Union members, reflects the financial realities facing the town and is in the best interest of our students, staff and community.

The committee is scheduled to meet again to bargain on November 4<sup>th</sup>.