



# MARBLEHEAD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 12, 2024

### **Marblehead Schools Closed Tomorrow as Strike Continues but Progress Made**

In keeping with his policy of proactive communication with the community, Marblehead Public Schools Interim Superintendent John Robidoux made the decision to close schools for Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, but the Marblehead School Committee and the Marblehead Education Association (MEA) made some progress during today's mediation session.

The Marblehead School Committee is pleased to announce that we have reached tentative agreements in two areas with the MEA: teacher work year and tuition reimbursement.

Teachers' work year will consist of 184 days and two training days before school begins, and two additional days that may be scheduled before or during the school year. Students will be scheduled for 185 school days, allowing for five snow days. We have also increased the collective tuition reimbursement total budget to \$39,000 for the current school year, then \$50,000 effective July 1, 2025, so teachers who apply for and are approved can receive some reimbursement for continuing their education.

"This is a positive development," said Marblehead School Committee Chair Jennifer Schaeffner. "We hope to continue this momentum and get our children and teachers back into the classroom. While we are hopeful, there is still much work to be done to finalize contracts."

Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations and the Marblehead School Committee sought an injunction against the MEA in Essex Superior Court in Lawrence and on Tuesday a judge ruled the strike is illegal and ordered Marblehead teachers back to their classrooms. Another hearing to determine fines posed against the MEA will be held Wednesday.

Negotiations are ongoing and mediation is still in session this evening. Mediation is expected to continue tomorrow.