

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday November 21, 2019
Marblehead High School Library

Members Present: Sarah Gold, Meagan Taylor, Jennifer Schaeffner, David Harris and Sarah Fox

Also: William, H. McAlduff Jr.-Interim Superintendent
Larry Buchsbaum, Board of Directors-Samaritan Inc.
Daniel Bauer, High School Principal
Muffy Paquette, Boosters President

Absent:

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7pm.

2. Commendations

There were no commendations to share.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Dan Howells, Student Rep, Junior and Class President

- Dan congratulated the participants of the state cross country meet and recognized fellow student Loeden Rodriguez for his win.
- The Girls' Powderpuff game against Swampscott is scheduled for Saturday
- The annual Thanksgiving Day Football is scheduled for 10am at Piper Field against Swampscott
- Sing Free of Die Hard, an Acapella Concert will be Tuesday at 7pm in the High School Auditorium.
- Next week will be Spirit Week which will consist of sport competitions, a hip hop club dance performance and will wrap up with a cheerleader pep rally.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

1. Minutes

a. September 19, 2019

Ms. Gold made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 19th meeting and asked if anyone had anything to add.

The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion carries 5-0, all in favor.

2. Appointment of Essex North Shore Agricultural and

Technical School Committee Representative

The vote to appoint the representative to the school committee was put on hold until further information from the town moderator would be provided.

3. Approve changes to Policy AC & Policy ACAB

AC-Non-Discrimination Policy & ACAB-Sexual Harassment Policy

Per the recommendation of the School Committee's legal council the Policy Subcommittee recommended approving changes to policies AC and ACAB.

Ms. Schaeffner read a prepared statement which was read when the same policies changes were

originally approved at the September 19th meeting. It was noted that a process for filing complaints against the Superintendent was added.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the policy changes as in packet as of November 18th. The motion Carries, 5-0 in favor.

III. Teaching/Learning Superintendent Report

1. Mental Health Presentation

Mr. Larry Buchsbaum, Board of Directors for Samaritan's Inc and a thirty year resident of Marblehead spoke about a free program they offer to help students manage pressure and stress. He discussed the reality of lives taken through suicide and how preventative outreach programs can help not only to educate the individual suffering but also educate peers about the warning signs of a friend struggling.

Mr. Buchsbaum mentioned that Samaritan's Inc was originally founded in England by Emily Dickens. He noted that they have 300 volunteers and about 600 total educational workshops in a year. It was also shared that in addition to visiting schools that the Samaritan's also provide hotlines and grief counseling.

The School Committee thanked Mr. Buchsbaum for sharing information about the free program as they all agreed that it was not something they had access to growing up and that as Ms. Gold stated, "Not talking about it doesn't help."

Ms. Fox inquired at what grade level the program started to which Mr. Buchsbaum shared that if there would be an interest to take part as a district that he would be thrilled.

2. Marblehead All-Sports Boosters – HS Tennis Courts

Ms. Gold noted that the committee would be going out of order of the agenda to allow Muffy Paquette, the President of the Boosters to present before High School Principal, Mr. Bauer shared his enrollment report.

Ms. Paquette was present to discuss a proposal to repair the high school tennis courts. Varsity Tennis Coach, Tracey Ackerman was also present. Ms. Paquette and Ms. Ackerman shared photo handouts of the tennis courts to show the need for repair. They shared that the current home court was located at Seaside which proposed issues surrounding community play and restroom use since there are no restrooms located at Seaside. Ms. Paquette asked the School Committee's approval to fundraise \$100,000 to repair the courts. She stated that repairing would be much more affordable than replacing them. She also shared that the Boosters would pledge to keep a reserve fund to maintain the \$2,000 to \$3,000 yearly upkeep of the courts. Ms. Paquette mentioned that since the courts could only be worked on during the months of May through September that the timing of approval by the committee would be important for bidding purposes.

Ms. Fox thanked Ms. Paquette and Ackerman for presenting and a series of questions occurred. The School Committee members had questions regarding: the integrity of the asphalt base, the warranty period of the new work to be completed and the condition of the fencing around the courts,

It was also shared that the best way to get involved would be to contact the Boosters at marbleheadboosters.org

Ms. Schaeffner made a motion to accept fundraising and the repair program of the tennis courts by the Boosters. The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

3. Marblehead High School Class Size Report

High School Principal, Dan Bauer presented a report looking at class size trends. The report was broken down by core subjects and electives. He noted that the electives included a choice for all and also included mindfulness and service learning options. Mr. Bauer's report showed average class sizes

ranging from around 17 to just under 20 students per class. He stressed that the priority was to make sure every student met their graduation requirements.

The School Committee discussed physical education requirements, partnering with colleges or universities for dual enrollment and the potential for any outliers in specific subject areas with regard to large numbers. They also discussed the success of co taught classes with helping to keep the overall average class size down.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills totaling \$484,940.91. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. The motion carries, 5-0 in favor.

18765	429,204.16
18769	360.00
18770	24,723.08
18772	9,615.50
18774	21,038.17
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Total	\$484,940.91

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. Bell, Coffin, Gerry Building Committee Update

Mr. Harris shared that the contract to hire the company Gilbane as Construction Manager, C.M for the new elementary school building project was complete and signed.

An extensive discussion surrounding the building project's next steps began. A question pertaining to when Gilbane would begin work onsite and the percent completion for design and deliverables was discussed. Ms. Schaeffner also inquired about a timeline and/or a calendar that could be shared that would show deliverable date submissions. Mr. Harris shared that the calendar is something the Building Committee is working on and that once the C.M could confirm some deliverable dates, things such as the start of the demolition of the Bell School would be on there. Ms. Schaeffner also questioned plans for community outreach prior to demolition. Mr. Harris stated that the committee would be making regular updates to their website and that Gilbane will do door to door flyers notifying of blasting. He also shared that Gilbane would be hosting a public informational night to explain the building process and answers questions the community may have.

After the discussion it was decided that there would be a building project presentation scheduled for 6pm the night of the school committee meeting scheduled for December 12th. Mr. Harris would confirm the availability of RDA and Leftfield so they could present an update. Ms. Fox shared that the presentation would be informative prior to voting on the next deliverables which was scheduled for the January 7th Building Committee

It was also mentioned that the deadline for school naming suggestions would be in early December and that the naming of the new school would become a future agenda item.

2. Superintendent Search Update

Ms. Schaeffner and Ms. Fox shared that the sub-committee met last Tuesday to finalize the successful candidate profile for Marblehead. Ms. Fox thanked the community for the great information that went into helping to build the candidate profile. Ms. Schaeffner shared that the profile would be posted to the website.

It was also stated that the first meeting for the selection committee would be November 25th.

Superintendent McAlduff congratulated the committee for staying ahead of the deadlines of the Superintendent Search and thanked the participants for their involvement with the surveys and focus group. He shared that the committee was well prepared to go forward and that he was “optimistic for the remainder of the process.”

3. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Update

Ms. Gold shared that herself and Ms. Schaeffner attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis. Some of the seminars attended discussed: Special Education life skills beyond high school, a violence prevention program for Sandy Hook Promise, Pathways to Support LGBTQ and a substance abuse program hosted by Attorney General, Maura Healey.

Ms. Schaeffner suggested that money be built into the budget for the new Superintendent and his secretary to attend the conference next year and that, “there were lots of great opportunities to meet professionals from all areas.”

After the update, Ms. Fox asked if there could be a monthly update for sub-committee updates. She shared that the Facilities Subcommittee recently met and that a member from Sustainable Marblehead, Jean would like to be a representative. She also mentioned that Mr. Moretti, the Interim Business Manager had many great ideas pertaining to capital improvement planning.

Superintendent McAlduff confirmed that he would add subcommittee update as a reoccurring future agenda item.

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business
None
2. Correspondence
None
3. Adjournment
Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee

Meeting Documents:

*Policy Updates AC & ACAB
Samaritans Inc. Presentation
High School Class Size Report
Boosters Fundraising Letter
Schedule of Bills \$489,940.91*

Approved January 23, 2020