

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Monday January 23, 2020
Marblehead High School Library

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

Members Absent: David Harris

Also: William, H. McAlduff Jr.-Interim Superintendent
Daniel Bauer-High School Principal

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Commendations

Ms. Taylor thanked the High School Woodworking Teacher, Mr. Taylor for opening up his classroom on January 11th to the Boys and Girls Scouts to have a cut day in preparation for their upcoming Pinewood Derby.

3. Public Comment

Ms. Jennifer Eaton spoke on behalf of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) regarding the 2020-2021 school year calendar. Ms. Eaton read a prepared statement. She thanked Superintendent McAlduff for the proposed changes. Ms. Eaton further shared her input stating that she felt it was important for special education students to attend school for as many full weeks as possible because they needed consistency to effectively engage in academics. Ms. Eaton also suggested that a calendar task force be created to implement policies for the best academic calendar going forward.

Ms. Catherine Martin of 29 West Shore Drive and member of the Building Committee read a prepared statement. She shared her concerns regarding requests for look ahead schedules and design and development drawings she felt the consultants were not delivering. Ms. Martin shared her intention was to advocate for the best possible project and stated that the project would only be as good as the clients engagement with it. She further shared her concerns about miscommunications stemming from items brought up for discussion.

Ms. Schaeffner asked that a record of both statements be part of the minutes taken.

Mr. Jim Zisson of 2 Mound Rd. shared his input on the naming of the new elementary school. He shared that his favorite name was Elbridge Gerry due to its historical significance stating that Elbridge Gerry was born in Marblehead, a Vice President, Governor of Massachusetts, a Congressman, a State Representative and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Zisson also mentioned Mr. Gerry advocated for the Bill of Rights prior to signing the Constitution sharing that without his persistence we would not have the first amendment and no freedom of speech or religion.

4. Student representative – Dan Howells

- This past week was mid-term week with the final day tomorrow
- The two competing acapella groups, the Jewel Tones and the Luminescence will compete in the NE Voices and HCHSA Festivals over the next two weekends
- The Student Mentor Program for the incoming class of 2024 has begun.
- The DECA Club recently competed at a district wide competition where they nearly swept the entire competition. The club will now move on to participating in the statewide competition.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

1. Minutes

Ms. Schaeffner made a motion to approve the minutes from November 21, 2019. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. The motion carries, 4-0 all in favor.

III. Superintendent Report

1. MHS Program of Studies 2020-2021 – Proposed Changes

Mr. Bauer gave a presentation on the 2020-2021 High School Program of Studies proposed changes. He thanked the school committee for having him and shared that the Program of Studies requires editing each year. He also stated that accuracy is critical so that the course selection process would be as efficient as possible. Mr. Bauer thanked his outstanding team for their hard work. He also mentioned that he had brought with him a Lead Teacher and Special Education Chairperson, Ms. Donnelly to answer any questions the committee may have. Mr. Bauer presented a PowerPoint to share some of the new courses that were added and the courses that would no longer be running. He also pointed out minor adjustments that were made to existing courses.

Questions surrounding the add drop period, modifications within instruction, the new 9th-12th grade Yearbook Course and a course focusing on financial literacy were all discussed.

Ms. Gold made motion to approve the Marblehead High School Program of Studies 2020 proposed changes. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion carries, 4-0 all in favor

2. Update on Feedback Regarding Proposed 2020-2021 SY Calendars

Superintendent McAlduff shared the feedback from the proposed 2020-2021 school year calendar. He thanked Ms. Eaton for her input on the school year calendar. Before moving forward, he clarified that neither of the drafts indicated early release days for Professional Development due to that needing to be more closely looked at. He also noted that both calendars had Good Friday falling on April 9th and that Good Friday would instead be on April 2nd. He reminded the committee that Draft 1 mimicked the previous years calendar and that Draft 2 was a hybrid of the former calendars and some proposed adjustments. Superintendent McAlduff explained that the plan would be to vote on an approved calendar at the February 6th meeting. He further shared that he received 84 total responses indicating which draft one preferred or comments and suggestions about scheduling around holidays. He pointed out that the major differences in drafts related to 1) beginning school with two Professional Development Days instead of just one and 2) keeping the 180th student day as far away from June 30th as possible. Superintendent McAlduff also agreed with Ms. Eaton's suggestion about setting up a task force to take a more comprehensive look at the school calendar.

Ms. Fox requested that feedback be shared with the school committee. She also inquired if stop times could be staggered on early release days to allow for more time in between pick-ups for parents with students at multiple buildings.

Ms. Taylor thanked the Superintendent for his work with involving the community and also agreed that the calendar process needed a more comprehensive review.

Ms. Schaeffner inquired if a member of the church could be part of the calendar committee and if it could begin in the Spring so that the committee could meet with Superintendent Buckley in the Fall to begin the process early.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve all schedules of bills totaling \$214,300.08. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. The motion passes, 4-0 all in favor.

Ms. Fox inquired about schedule #19011 in which three items from FY19 was paid to FY20 to which Superintendent McAlduff confirmed that the items were a follow through from a discussion had at the last meeting.

2. FY21 Budget Goals and Calendar

Superintendent McAlduff discussed the Budget Development Calendar that was revised on January 21st. He mentioned that one of the only changes was in relation to finalizing a date for the Budget Public Hearing which was originally scheduled during a week he would be away, from March 19th through March 23rd. Due to multiple conflicts with other committee members schedules during the month of March, the budget subcommittee would need to look more closely at the calendar to come up with a mutually agreeable date to hold the hearing. Superintendent McAlduff stated that the plan moving forward would be to hold a FY21 Budget Workshop with the Leadership Team on February 12th as a follow-up to the February 6th meeting, which would be when the committee would receive their budget binders. It was noted that Ms. Taylor was working with the Finance Education Liaisons to hold meetings on February 24th and again on March 16th. It was also shared the meeting with Fincom was to be determined for Monday March 30th.

Superintendent McAlduff shared the standout budget priorities that were developed through collaboration with the Leadership Team. The budget priorities shared consisted of:

- a) Meeting Contractual Obligations
- b) Reorganizing Central Administration Staff
- c) Managing Special Education Tuition and Transportation Services
- d) Providing Appropriate Funding for Curriculum and Student Support
- e) Accurately Budget for Facilities Maintenance

A conversation surrounding the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and Chapter 70 Funding took place. Superintendent McAlduff shared that he attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) mid-winter meeting earlier that day to hear The Commissioner explain the process. He mentioned that guidelines and forms would be released and that those districts who will receive 1.5 million or less will be required to fill out the two page short form.

3. K and PK Tuition Recommendation for 2020-2021

Superintendent McAlduff spoke about the 2020-2021 Preschool and Kindergarten Tuition Rates that the committee received in a memo from the Director of Finance, Ms. Cresta. He stated that the 2.5 percent increase was reflective of the 2.5 percent COLA increase that the staff would receive. Superintendent McAlduff recommended working with DESE in the future to determine what additional Chapter 70 funding would be available if Marblehead introduced a zero cost full day kindergarten program since the funding directly relates to student enrollment.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 school year tuition rates at \$3,604 for Full Day Kindergarten, \$4,449 for Full Day Preschool and \$2,251 for Half Day Preschool. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. The motion carries, 4-0 all in favor. Ms. Fox stated that charging a tuition does not provide equal opportunity for every family to which Ms. Gold agreed that the tuition should be further looked at in the future.

4. Spring 2020 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Superintendent McAlduff shared the four warrant articles that would be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting that directly impacted the schools. The articles named were:

- a) Departmental Revolving Funds
- b) Capital Improvements for Public Buildings
- c) Transfer Funds to the Special Education Stabilization Fund
- d) Medicaid Reimbursement Money

He further explained that no action needed to be taken on warrants with the exception of the annual letter regarding spending limits on the Special Education Revolving Fund which directly related to the Departmental Revolving Funds warrant. It was stated that the letter would request a maximum spending amount of \$900k which was a decrease from last year.

Superintendent McAlduff stated that an item for supplemental appropriations for the school department was also being held as a placeholder if needed and that the committee would need to vote on that. After a discussion, it was clarified that the placeholder was implemented as a follow-up to last year's budget process and it was decided that the placeholder would provide flexibility for both override or debt exclusion.

Ms. Gold made a motion to submit to the Board of Selectmen a FY21 Annual Town Meeting warrant article for the purpose of securing a Supplemental Appropriation for the Schools, if necessary and that the wording for such article be as presented. The motion was moved by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion carries, 4-0 all in favor.

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. Superintendent Contract

Ms. Gold shared that the discussion of the Superintendent Contract would be put on hold as it would be discussed later that same evening in executive session.

2. Building Project Update

Ms. Fox provided the building committee update in the absence of Mr. Harris. She stated that she does not have much of an update as she felt that she did not have as up to date information as Mr. Harris would. Ms. Fox shared that there was a joint meeting last week to which the school committee already had the information from. She shared that the committee was scheduled to meet with the zoning board on Tuesday and the planning board on Wednesday. Ms. Fox also noted that Ms. Schaeffner shared an example of a monthly report that had been provided to school committee members and town officials during the building of the now Veterans Middle School and mentioned that she felt the report represented what the building committee should be receiving.

Ms. Schaeffner stated that the report would help the members and school committee more closely track what is going on with the building project so that they are better able to answer questions about the project. She stated her concerns related to getting answers to detailed questions and specifically noted the permitting and approval process. Ms. Schaeffner mentioned that she would share the reporting document with the school and building committees. She also stated that it may be helpful to have a former OPM attend and upcoming building committee meeting.

Ms. Gold informed the committee that she had not put the naming process on the agenda and would like the data to be made available to the public before moving forward with deliberation on a final name. Although no formal vote was taken, it was decided after a discussion that a finalist list should be shared with the community prior to the final vote and that public comment should be allowed before confirming the name.

Ms. Schaeffner asked how the committee should address Ms. Martin's concerns to which Ms. Gold explained that there would be many avenues for that whether it be through email chains or public comment. Ms. Schaeffner also requested that a recent email she received be added to the meeting record.

3. Liaison Updates

Ms. Gold explained that the plan moving forward would be to provide regular updates on the subcommittees at the first Thursday meeting of the month and the Liaisons at the second Thursday meeting of the month. Eveleth and Coffin Liaisons Ms. Fox and Ms. Schaeffner shared that both schools had yet to meet. Ms. Schaeffner shared that Glover met for the first time in December and that Principal Ota went through the format for the school improvement plan. She also shared that there was another meeting scheduled for earlier that day but that there was no quorum so the members spoke casually and adjourned. Ms. Taylor explained that Village meets every month on the first Thursday of the month. They go through each grade level and updates from the previous month with a focus on the school improvement plan. Ms. Fox shared that the Veterans Middle Schools meets on Thursday afternoons. She informed the committee that the last discussion involved the need for an additional

teacher and a new pilot program in which students would lead parent conferences to work together to set goals. Ms. Gold shared that the High School meets on Thursday afternoons once a month and that the school improvement plan was discussed in January, the handbook has been looked over and MCAS discussed. Ms. Taylor mentioned that there would be a METCO meeting on February 11th. She also commended Ms. Kaplowitch, the PCO Central Council President for her collaboration with Monique, the METCO PCO. Ms. Gold shared that SEPAC would be holding a Spring conference on March 21st where teachers, parent and students will all be involved. It was shared that they are also already preparing for their unsung heroes event. Additionally, SEPAC is looking at the online bullying form and making it more user friendly. Ms. Taylor commented on the wonderful experience the Unsung Heroes event was.

Ms. Fox made a motion to move “New Business” and “Closing Business” prior to Executive Session. Ms. Gold moved the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion passes, 4-0 all in favor.

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business

Ms. Fox inquired when the Assistant Superintendent Search may begin. Superintendent McAlduff mentioned getting information to the school committee regarding a Search Advisory Council (SAC) sometime by the end of February to begin the process.

Ms. Fox also inquired about an earlier presentation from Smart Roots and where the committee was with that. Ms. Gold confirmed that she already had it in her notes to follow up with Smart Roots.

Ms. Schaeffner shared that the Marblehead Police Department would be holding an eight week Citizen Police Academy Course sometime in April. The course was designed to help citizens to better understand law enforcement. Ms. Schaeffner read a prepared statement about the course.

VII. Executive Session

Ms. Gold made a motion to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws: Chapter 30A, section 21 (a) (2): to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. Specifically as it relates to Dr. John Buckey and only to return to open session in order to adjourn.

The motion was moved by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Schaeffner-Yes

Ms. Fox-Yes

Ms. Taylor-Yes

Ms. Gold-Yes

Ms. Gold noted that the Executive Session opened at 9:29 and that a five minute break would be taken.

*Respectfully Submitted
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee*

Approved March 24, 2020