

Marblehead School Committee

May 21, 2020

7:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call-Meeting ID: 977 3002 9783 & Password 284479

<https://zoom.us/j/97730029783?pwd=MEExvU1N2TGZJUGoxbnJxY0E4K1o1UT09>

Dial In (415) 762-9988 with ID and follow prompts

Meeting ID: 977 3002 9783

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and reminded everyone that would like to participate in public comment to type their contact information into the Zoom chat function.

2. Commendations

None

3. Student Representative – Dan Howells

Not in attendance for the meeting

4. Public Comment

Former Marblehead School Committee Chairperson, Ms. Meredith Tedford spoke in reference to a remark made at the last school committee meeting by public comment speaker Mr. Benjamin Berman. She stated that she was “concerned that celebratory talk of savings without appropriate context was at best premature and worst misleading, and frankly also concerning given the dire circumstances surrounding the savings, whether pandemic-related or otherwise.” She further shared her thoughts regarding advocating for a needs based budget and her viewpoint on how the surplus funds could be used as resources to support the needs of the school district instead of being returned to the Town. Ms. Tedford stressed advocating for what was in the best interest of the students, stating that “they are the future of this community.”

7:15 PM – Public Hearing on School Choice

Ms. Gold noted that although the agenda did not reflect a vote for the Public Hearing on School Choice that one was required at the close of the hearing and apologized for the oversight.

Ms. Gold shared that the school committee would conduct the annual hearing on school choice as required by general law chapter 76, section 12b. She made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and go into the public hearing. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Schaeffner-yes

Ms. Fox-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

Superintendent McAlduff explained that the vote to take on additional students was directly related to available classroom space. He further shared that the uncertainty surrounding the given

health crisis would make it more difficult to approve not knowing yet what the new school year may look like.

After there were no questions from the public, Ms. Gold made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and re-enter the public meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Gold inquired if the committee had any questions regarding the school choice decision.

Superintendent McAlduff explained that School Choice was originally enacted in 1993 and was originally part of the Education Reform Act which changed many things in public education in Massachusetts. The law presumes that districts across the state will accept students from neighboring school districts and receive a reimbursement per student that attends. A hearing to not participate needed to be held prior to June 1st.

Ms. Gold made a motion that Marblehead Public Schools not participate for the 2020-2021 school year for the reason for lack of available classroom space. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox
Mr. Harris
Ms. Taylor

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

Consent Agenda and Action Items

1. Minutes : March 5, 2020

Ms. Taylor mentioned that she would abstain if the committee moved forward due to not having had a chance to go over them. Ms. Fox also shared that she was not able to review the minutes as she received the Dropbox invitation late. Ms. Schaeffner confirmed that she was prepared to vote if there was a quorum to do so. Ms. Gold acknowledged that there had been some Dropbox issues that would be looked into after the meeting. Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the minutes from March 5, 2020. The motion was moved by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-abstain
Ms. Fox-abstain

The motion passes, 3-0 with two abstentions.

II. Superintendent Report

1. Approval of High School Mural Project

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the Marblehead High School Exterior Mural Project as proposed by the Marblehead Sports Boosters with the understanding that Marblehead Sports Boosters and a private donor will provide the funding for this project. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

2. Spring Stipend Payments

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Marblehead School Committee and the Marblehead Education Association relating to Spring athletic coaching stipends and full year stipends. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

3. School Closure Update

a. Marblehead High School Class of 2020 – Final Graduation Plan

Superintendent McAluff explained that High School Principal Dan Bauer had included a letter he had sent to parents regarding the details of the virtual graduation that would be held Friday June 5th at 6pm. He commended Principal Bauer and his team for the hours spent putting the graduation together while coordinating with the Board of Health to follow appropriate public health guidelines.

Principal Bauer shared that the High School would coordinate an in-person celebration when and where it could make sense in the future if it remained a possibility to do so. He further shared that there was some additional support from the Boosters to provide some surprises for the Seniors.

b. Re-Entry Plan – Continued Discussion

Superintendent McAluff shared that he had been meeting regularly with colleagues and researching reopening plan information. He explained that The Massachusetts Association of Superintendents has been pushing the Commissioner for more guidance so that there would be more consistency with reopening plans across the state. It was shared that DESE will provide guidance in which it is expected that up to 85% will consist of directives. He further shared that the district was already starting to look into securing PPE personal protective equipment supplies. A conversation regarding long-term remote learning concerns and the benefit of including community members in reopening subcommittees took place.

4. Assistant Superintendent Search Update

Superintendent McAlduff shared that the committee did a great job identifying eight finalist candidates for the position of Assistant Superintendent. He explained that all eight were originally scheduled and that two withdrew. He further shared that a total of four candidates were submitted for consideration noting that three were “very strong candidates.” He informed the committee that one of the three finalist candidates withdrew to accept another position and that the two finalist candidates were interviewed last Monday. He also mentioned that the two candidates would participate in a virtual district meet and greet the following morning. One scheduled from 10-10:30 and then 10:30-11am. He also recommended that the committee schedule a virtual meet and greet to have time to interact with the candidates prior to appointment recommendations being brought forward. A meeting on Wednesday was suggested and it was decided that an evening meeting of 7:00pm on Wednesday would be scheduled. The two finalist candidates Laurie Kirby and Nan Murphy were announced.

III. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the identified scheduled of bills totaling \$1,057, 893.61. The motion was moved by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Schaeffner-yes-

Ms. Fox-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

2. FY21 Budget Update

Superintendent McAlduff shared that he had been in communication with Town Administrator, Jason Silva and that it had been explained that the Town was projecting a 10% reduction of state aid along with a 7% decrease in local revenue. He shared that the Budget subcommittee would be meeting on Tuesday and that no adjustments had been made since the May 7th school committee meeting. He proposed that the school committee meet on Monday June 8th for the Public Hearing on the FY21 budget so Michelle could post the legal notice for it.

3. Service and Maintenance Agreement Contracts

Ms. Cresta informed the committee that it was the time of year to plan for the following year in terms of service maintenance agreement contracts. She explained that the district was currently in the process of going out to bid for three reoccurring contracts for:

- 1) boiler maintenance
- 2) elevator maintenance
- 3) general fire alarm maintenance

She requested that the school committee approve a one year extension on four of the current service agreement contracts in district for plumbing, HVAC, roofing repairs and fire alarm maintenance.

Ms. Gold made a motion to award a one year extension of the on-call plumbing contract to Robert Irvine and Sons of Lynn in the amount of \$43,080 and to authorize the Chair to sign

the contract on behalf of the committee. The motion was moved by and seconded by. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Gold made a motion to award a one year extension of the HVAC mechanical repairs to Cooling and Heating Specialists of Newton in the amount of \$29,980 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the committee. The motion was move by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Gold made a motion to award a one year extension of the roofing repairs contract to Greenwood Industries, Inc. of Worcester in the amount of \$29,160 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the committee. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Gold made a motion to award a one year extension of the Simplex Fire Alarm Maintenance contract to Johnson Controls of Canton in the amount of \$15,285 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the committee. The motion was move by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes
Ms. Schaeffner-yes
Ms. Fox-yes
Mr. Harris-yes
Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

IV. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. School Building Project Update

Mr. Harris shared that notices had gone out to the community about the blasting that would be occurring all week. He shared that large equipment would be delivered to the building site on Friday May 22nd early in the morning and that crushing would begin on Tuesday. It was also noted that early bid packages on the building exterior were received. It was explained that at the last building committee meeting an amendment was submitted to the planning board to change the color of the brick being used on the exterior of the building to a more muted brick tone. Mr. Harris further shared that the monthly report for April had been submitted and acknowledged that the large documents could be creating Drop box storage space issues.

2. School Naming Process-Presentation of Final Names

After a committee discussion, although no formal vote was taken; it was decided that the naming of the new elementary school be postponed until as Ms. Taylor stated, “the committee could do it at a time when everyone could be involved in the celebration.” Ms. Fox also inquired whether or not there were concerns regarding naming from the original donor of the Bell site. A conversation regarding the gifting of the land to the town took place. Superintendent McAlduff recommended receiving clarification from the Town prior to moving forward with the naming.

V. Closing Business

1. New Business

Ms. Schaeffner shared that each year the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, MASC awards an Outstanding School Partner Award. She mentioned that nominations are normally due by June 1st and that she would like to nominate the Marblehead Boosters to recognize them for all of the work they have contributed to over the years. Ms. Gold made a motion for Ms. Schaeffner to submit the Marblehead Boosters as a recipient of the Outstanding School Partner Award. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-yes

Ms. Schaeffner-yes

Ms. Fox-yes

Mr. Harris-yes

Ms. Taylor-yes

The motion carries, 5-0 all in favor.

2. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.

*Respectfully Submitted
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee*

Approved September 3, 2020