

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Marblehead High School

Members Present: Meredith Tedford, Kate Lipsitz,
David Harris, Jennifer Schaeffner

Also: Maryann Perry, Superintendent
Dr. Bradford Smith, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda Maniaci, Director of Business and Finance
Ken Lord, Exec. Dir. Of Technology and Operations
Rachel Bowen, Director of Human Resources

Members Absent:

I. Initial Business

A. Call to Order

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

B. Commendations

Superintendent Perry thanked the Police, Fire and Town for their help during the storm. She also thanked the parents and students on the return to school for their patience during pick up and drop off.

Ms. Tedford thanked Mr. James Maroney of MHTV.

C. Public Comment

Patricia Blackmer, 20 Seaview Ave noted her disappointment at the December 21st meeting when the enrollment guidelines established by the School Committee years ago were not presented to the Committee so it could be used to determine if staffing and enrollment is equitable in following the guidelines and that class sizes are fair across the district. Ms. Blackmer also noted that in regards to the Gerry BC efforts to find the most financially and educationally sound solution to the facility deficiencies, it would be important for them to look at a third enrollment option. Hope feasibility study could consider another enrollment option.

Amy Drinker, 30 Gregory St. thanked the School Committee, the Building committee and the administration for the work being done for Gerry Coffin School configuration. The override was passed for consideration of the Gerry Coffin School district and the current conversations with the MSBA to consider the Bell School do not take into account the long term commitment that this town has had with neighborhood schools. She asked that they explore a middle road that would be a school more appropriately sized for the properties we have to work with which would be a school that is more in the 290 student building. She expressed her desire that the Building Committee can go back and review and engage the MSBA in a discussion of another size building option that is more appropriately sized to the building sites that we have available to us in Marblehead.

D. Student Representative

Not present

II. Consent Agenda & Action Items

1. Minutes: 12/7/17 and 12/21/17

Ms. Lipsitz made motion to approve the minutes of 12/7/17 and 12/21/17. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schaeffner. The Committee **VOTED** unanimously, 4-0, in favor.

III. Teaching/Learning-Superintendent of Schools

A. District Reports and Updates

1. School Calendar for 2018-2019

Superintendent Perry noted that last year was the first year that staff returned for their first day with students returning the following day. She noted that we will continue with this format for the 2018-2019 school year. Last year we also piloted a K-8 Parent Conference in the afternoon and evening. Feedback from parents and teachers was good but we changed the half day of conferences to be held the day before the full day of conferences. School Committee will vote for the 2018-2019 School calendar at their January 25th meeting.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

#15945	\$	340.00
#15971	\$	395.00
#15981	\$	255.00
#15996	\$	3,751.00
#15999	\$	412,240.04
#16000	\$	41,215.50
#16001	\$	27,884.17
#16015	\$	29,548.25
#16017	\$	10,811.71
Total		\$526,440.67

Ms. Schaeffner made motion to approve the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$526,440.67. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lipsitz. The Committee **VOTED** unanimously, 4-0, in favor.

2. YTD Budget Executive Summary

Ms. Maniaci presented her report and noted that there have been no transfers since the last Executive Budget Summary. She also noted that all areas seem to be in par with where they were last year.

3. 2019 Budget Assumptions/Budget Development

Superintendent Perry noted that the annual school budget seeks to reflect the priorities identified in the district's defined mission, vision and goals, with the assumption of concurrently providing sufficient resources to ensure compliance of all federal, state and locally mandated educational programs and requirements. Massachusetts public school entities have been required by state and federal laws to add or update the following programs or services. These mandates have not been financed by concurrent state or federal grant financing and have added funding pressure as MPS works to absorb these initiatives into the operating budget: Social Emotional Learning and Bullying prevention; Supporting academic achievement of our student enrollment; and Statewide Assessment MCAS 2.0. This budget assumes level staffing and honors and funds contractual increases across all units/step and grades. It also assumes level expense lines in Building operations and maintenance and utilities. (full report can be found on SC web page under 1/11/18 mtg documents). The variable expenses occur in Special Education, Curriculum and Technology. The next steps in the FY19 Budget Process are as follows:

- Ongoing School Committee Budget Liaison Meetings
- Finance Committee – FinCom School Budget Liaison Meetings
- School Committee Meetings – Budget presentation
- School Department Town Outlay Funding Requests
- Town Warrant Closes – Jan 26, 2018
- School Committee - Budget Hearing Mar 8th, 2018
- FinCom School Budget Meeting – Mar 19th, 2018
- Town Warrant Public Hearing – Mar 26th, 2018
- Town Meeting/Vote to Approve Town Budgets – May 7th, 2018

4. Letter to Selectmen on Revolving Funds

The letter to the Selectmen on Revolving Funds was presented. A motion to approve this letter was made by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Mr. Harris. The Committee **VOTED** unanimously, 4-0, in favor.

V. School Committee Communication and/or Discussion items

1. Discussion of Warrant Articles for Town Meeting

Ms. Maniaci explained that the increasing costs of our in house and out of district programming needs are historically trending and apparent. Marblehead has had the unique opportunity of costs savings to the Town by hosting many of the students in in house programming that many other districts have to outplace at a significantly higher costs. Additionally, special education transportation costs, both in true vendor economic costs, and rising mandates surrounding the requirements of student transportation have continued to rise annually.

As a district we have worked to offset increasing costs with relevant program offerings to draw out of district students to our programs with a tuition cost as revenue to us. This balance has reached the point of saturation with fiscal 18 at a projected deficit for funding to offset projected expenses.

As more districts receive municipal funding to start in house special education programs on their own, as the municipalities realize the savings on keeping students in house as opposed to out of district placements, Marblehead is losing some of these out of district placements now receiving services in their own districts. This has lowered our student tuition-in revenue from the prior year. Concurrently our district student outplacement needs are increasing.

As one solution, we have seen our peer districts initiate and utilize Town level special education reserve and/or stabilization funds. As a section of the Act to Modernize Municipal Finance and Government, final Bill signed on August 9th, 2016, section 24 “allows a school district to establish a reserve fund to pay, without further appropriation, for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation.

To establish a Town Reserve Fund, an Article must be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant as sponsored by the Department. Ms. Maniaci noted that she is looking for the School Committee to approve and go forward with this article language. She also noted that no money is attached to this article at this time.

2. School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018-2019

The dates for School Committee meetings for next year was presented.

Ms. Schaeffner made motion to approve the SC meeting calendar for 2018-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. The Committee **VOTED** unanimously, 4-0, in favor.

3. Gerry Building Update

a. Test-fits

Mr. Harris presented a power point presentation on the Gerry Building Committee Site Test Fits options; maps of each site, the pros and cons of each site and the final recommendation from the Building Committee (full pp presentation can be seen on SC web page under 1/11/18 meeting documents).

Ms. Schaeffner made motion to approve the recommendation of the Building Committee for the PDP options for further study as outlined below:

Coffin - 160C addition/renovation

Coffin - 160F new construction

Bell - 450 G1 addition/renovation

Coffin - 450 K1 new construction

Bell - 450 L1 new construction

Bud Orne - 450 H1 new construction

The motion was seconded by Ms. Lipsitz for discussion. Discussion followed with Ms. Schaeffner asking about the educational vision and what steps were necessary to include an option for mid size school between these two ranges. Mr. Harris noted that an option for a 250-290 building will be discussed at the Building Committee meeting in January. Ms. Tedford asked for a vote for the motion on the table. The Committee **VOTED** unanimously, 4-0, in favor.

Updates:

Mr. Harris noted that the next Gerry BC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18 and will be held at the High School at 7pm in the library conference room.

Mr. Harris noted that there will be a public forum to in the near future.

VI. Closing Business

A. New Business

Ms. Tedford made note that the February 8, 2018 school committee meeting is canceled and rescheduled for Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30pm at the High School.

Ms. Tedford asked Ms. Lipsitz if she would be willing to take over the role of interim secretary until a new member is appointed. Ms. Lipsitz noted that she would.

Ms. Tedford noted that the January 25, 2018 school committee meeting will be held at the Veterans School.

B. Correspondence

none

C. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and the Committee **VOTED** unanimously.
The public session of the meeting ended at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Lipsitz
Marblehead School Committee

Meeting Documents:

Minutes: 12/7/17 and 12/21/17

School Calendar for 2018-2019

Schedule of Bills

YTD Budget Executive Summary

2019 Budget Assumptions/Budget Development

Letter to Selectmen on Revolving Funds

Discussion of Warrant Articles for Town Meeting

School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018-2019

Approved 1/25/2018