

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting

Thursday June 1, 2023

Marblehead High School

Library

7:00pm

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/94278091492?pwd=ZlJXTHdWTlVXMmNWandhK3h1K1BRQT09>

Members Present: Sarah Fox, Sarah Gold, Thomas Mathers, Alison Taylor and Meagan Taylor

Also Present: John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
Nan Murphy, Assistant Superintendent  
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Gina Hart, High School Social Worker

I. Initial Business

a. Call to Order

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

b. State of the District

i. Achievement Update

Superintendent Buckey shared comparison data pertaining to grade averages for 4-year college prep 1 and 2 courses. The drop in achievement per each grade level per CP2 subject area was noted.

ii. Enrollment and Class Size Update

Superintendent Buckey shared an update on enrollment numbers. He noted the current enrollment of all students is 2,563 with a projected 23-24 school year enrollment of similar. He further mentioned the decrease in staffing head counts in relation to steady enrollment across the years. Enrollment data by school and class was also shared. Enrollment data is updated every Monday morning and will become publicly available data going forward.

Superintendent Buckey reminded the community of the list of position cuts that will be made should the override vote not pass.

A discussion on the discrepancy of enrollment data shared versus what is listed on the DESE website took place. It was mentioned that the numbers on the state website are reflective of specific reporting periods. For example, effective as of October 1st.

iii. Records Request Update

At the request of committee member Mathers, Superintendent Buckey provided an update on school year records requests. Committee member Mathers explained the request was made to better understand community concerns raised pertaining to transparency. Per request, Superintendent Buckey included: the date the request came in, who the request was made by, the subject of the request and the date the summarized response was sent. He further outlined the number of single requests versus the number of multiple requests received.

Committee member Mathers voiced his concerns related to the legal expenses incurred. He inquired what the district could do better to not incur unnecessary expenses pertaining to records requests. Further discussion about the staffing and time consideration to respond to records requests took place. Chairperson Fox and committee member Alison Taylor voiced their concerns with seemingly shaming community members seeking transparency.

iv. Legal Update

At the request of committee member Mathers, Superintendent Buckey noted that there were two Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Complaints, MCAD. Per the advice of legal counsel, it was recommended that an Executive Session be scheduled should there be a request for further updates pertaining to the two cases.

c. Commendations

Superintendent Buckey recognized Assistant Superintendent Murphy and her list of accomplishments she brought to the district during the three short years she was in Marblehead. It was mentioned that she implemented a new Mathematics and English Language Arts curriculum, aligned elementary school schedules and developed a new standards-based report card. He commended her work ethic and wished her well in her new role as Superintendent for the Dedham Public Schools.

d. Student Representative-Yasen Colon

- Ms. Gold gifted Mr. Colon a gavel in appreciation of his serving as the student representative for the school committee.
- Class Elections took place on May 22nd and 24th with the final elections taking place the following day
- The final Band and Orchestra performances will be on May 22nd. Chorus is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>
- The GSA Club held their Day of Silence on May 24th
- Art Exhibition will be on display until May 31st at Abbot Hall
- The last day for Seniors and the display for Senior Projects is on June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The red carpet for Senior Prom will begin at 4:30 on June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Senior Field Day will be on June 8th. Cap and gowns will be picked up and a yearbook signing is scheduled.
- Graduation is scheduled for June 9th on Piper Field
- A list of dates for the honors society inductions was shared
- Freshman will take Biology MCAS on June 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>
- A sports update was provided
- The last day of school will be June 23rd

d. Public Comment

None

## II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

a. Interview and Vote of School Nurse

Chairperson Fox asked for a motion to hire Julie Berman BSN as a school nurse pending DESE certification. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Mr. Mathers. The motion pass-5-0.

b. Approval to Declare High School Science Department Items as Surplus

c. Approval for 2023-2024 School Year Out of State Field Trips-High School

d. Schedule of Bills

e. FY24 Clerk's Agreement

f. Approval of Minutes

5/18/2023

Chairperson Fox asked for a motion to approve all remaining consent action and agenda items to include high school surplus items, out of state high school field trips for the 2023-2024 school year, the schedule of bills totaling \$238,428.67 and the FY24 clerk's agreement. It was noted that the approval of minutes from May 18th would be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Gold and seconded by Ms. Alison Taylor. The motion pass-5-0.

### III. Superintendent Report

#### a. Youth Behavior at Risk Survey Presentation- Gina Hart

Social Worker, Ms. Gina Hart shared a presentation of data related to the Youth Behavior at Risk Survey students fill out. She shared the purpose of the survey is to help inform which risks factors make the Marblehead community more vulnerable towards substance abuse and mental health issues so programming can be structured to better support students in need. Demographics were shared and comparison data from previous year at both the school and state level was referenced.

After the presentation committee members thanked Ms. Hart for the comprehensive review and shared their suggestions including the following:

increasing the amount of information shared with parents and guardians throughout the year  
improving how the large amount of data could be presented in the most consumable way  
including outreach information at the end of the survey in support of currently struggling students

#### b. District Updates

##### i. Staffing Update

Superintendent Buckley shared that Dan Richards has been hired to fill the Assistant Principal position at high school. He has most recently served as the Dean of Students in the Manchester Essex school district. He has also served as Principal in both the Belmont and Georgetown school districts.

It was mentioned that the Village School will be holding interviews the following Tuesday for the Assistant Principal position, which received over thirty interested applicants.

Assistant Superintendent Cresta shared that Ms. Kelley Ferretti will join the administrative team in the restructured HR Director role as the HR Manager. She will begin the following Monday.

### IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

#### a. Massachusetts Association of School Committees MASC Policy Revision

Recommendations:

B DFA-School Advisory Councils-Revision

B DFA-E3 Conduct of School Advisory Council Business-RESCIND

B DFA-E-School Improvement Plan-Revision /New Name

B DFA-E1 School Improvement Plan-RESCIND

B DFA-E2 Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan-RESCIND

CHA\_CHC-Development and Dissemination of Procedures-Revision/New Name

CHA Development of Procedures-RESCIND

CHC Procedures Dissemination-RESCIND

Ms. Gold noted the listed policies were being discussed for a third time. She referenced MGL regarding voting school improvement plans in reference to a question that came up in the previous meeting pertaining to school committee purview in relation to the approval of the plans. She further discussed endorsing the plans prior to final approval by the Superintendent.

After discussion, Ms. Gold asked for a motion to rescind policies B DFA-E1, B DFA-E2, B DFA-E3, CHA and CHC.

The motion was moved by Ms. Megan Taylor and seconded by Ms. Alison Taylor. The motion pass-5-0.

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve policies BDFA, BDFA-E and CHA\_CHC.

The motion was moved by Ms. Megan Taylor and seconded by Ms. Alison Taylor. The motion pass-5-0.

b. FY24 Budget Planning and Discussion

Accounting of All Employee Benefits

Mr. Mathers explained the agenda item was requested by him to inquire about ways in which the Town and school department could more efficiently track benefits related employee costs to maintain adjustments to budgeting as staffing changes occur throughout the year.

Assistant Superintendent Cresta explained that the schools would require an additional position to take on the management of benefits as the benefits were currently processed through the Town.

c. Superintendent Evaluation-Workshop Date

Chairperson Fox noted the workshop is anticipated to take place on Tuesday June 6th at 7:30pm and the agenda will be posted the following morning.

d. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- The Cultural Feast was a successful event and there is video the students created of the event
- The budget focused SEPAC information session went well and positive feedback was received
- The Unsung Hero nominations should be submitted by the following day, June 2nd.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

None

b. Correspondence

None

c. Adjournment

Chairperson Fox adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Dimier, Secretary  
Marblehead School Committee*

*Approved June 15, 2023*